SQUATTERS — CAPE

1993

'Whites shoot squatter'

SOUTH 23/1-27/1/93 307

By Justin Pearce and Edwina Booysen

CHASE the blacks out of Kraaifontein with guns!

This threat by a white resident in July last year had a sinister sequel when two white residents allegedly shot Mr Douglas Nkwali earlier this month.

At the July meeting, a speaker called for black squatters to be removed from the town, at gunpoint if necessary.

According to one eyewitness, the proposal was applauded by most of the people at the meeting.

Nkwali's left arm was severely wounded in the shooting on January 7.

Nkwali, a resident of the Wallacedene squatter camp, was walking through a white area of the town on his way to work, when two men forced him into a stationwagon at gun point. The men drove him to a field at Joostenbergvlakte where they told him to leave the car and then shot him seven times.

He also suffered serious injuries to his leg, chest and neck, and is still in the Intensive Care Unit at Tygerberg Hospital.

Ms Doris Neewat, chair of the Kraaifontein ANC branch, said the shooting must be seen in the light of ongoing harassment of Kraaifontein's black communities.

In addition to the threat made at the public meeting, Neewat told of an incident on New Year's Eve when teargas, rubber bullets and birdshot were fired at the squatter camp, and the harassment of unemployed people seeking work in the town.

Wallacedene residents have rallied round Nkwali and his family. They collected money to pay transport costs for his wife, Mrs Nonsanko Nkwali, who was visiting Transkei at the time of the attack.

Mr Petrus "Peet" Rens and Mr James Downey, both 31, appeared in the Kuils River Magistrate's Court on Monday morning.

Call to build on east Philippi structure plan

S/Times (Cape Metro)
24/1/93.
(30)

By LEW ELIAS

INDUSTRIALISTS and squatters want a proposed plan for east Philippi to be adopted without delay.

The plan, drawn up more than 18 months ago, calls for about 37 hectares to be developed as a residential and industrial area.

The provision of an industrial area would create job opportunities for the people who are to be housed in the area.

The plan also calls for the building of schools, a hospital and a soccer stadium and for a range of housing options to be offered.

The call for the plan to be adopted came this week after negotiations between squatters, the National Portland Cement company in Philippi, the Urban Foundation and the Legal Resources Centre. The talks were chaired by the Local Dispute Resolution Committee.

The meeting followed the NPC's being granted an order to eject people from about 200 shacks on NPC land.

Last November about five shacks were built on the site. The number had grown to 200 by the beginning of the year.

A director of NPC, Mr Mike Doyle, said the company wanted to find a remedy other than eviction and said the best solution would be for the structure plan to be implemented.

This was endorsed by squatter leader Mr Thabu Memani, who asked the company to number the shacks that had been built on the site.

Mr Memani undertook to discourage the building of more shacks while negotiations were in progress.

At the meeting NPC said it would try to get the Cape Provincial Administration to provide a temporary water supply and sanitation for the squatters.

Further meetings are to be held this week.

4 die in KTC 'revenge' hits (307)

FOUR people were shot dead in KTC squatter camp near Gugulethu, Cape Town, in a suspected revenge killing early on Friday morning.

Police spokesman Maj Attie Laubscher said police believed the attacks on two shacks were carried out by the same person or persons, but did not link the shootings to any political party.

He said police found the bodies of two men at No 3965, Section Three, at KTC camp after being called to the scene at midday.

The men were identified as M Ebenge, 26, and G Maphuthuma, 28. They had been shot in the neck, stomach and head and four spent 9 mm cartridges and three bullets were found.

■ **Reports by Sapa.** CTPress 24/1/93.

Family thrilled with their new 'instant house'

ST Times (Cape Metro) 24/1/93. 307

Report and Picture: LEW ELIAS

THE WILLIAMS family, after living in a two-roomed shack in Kylemore for 10 years, had a new house built this week. It took a day.

Mr Hendrik Williams, who works in a kitchen at the University of Stellenbosch, has been living in Kylemore, between Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, almost all his life and his nine brothers and four sisters live in the village as well.

He heard about the quick-build house from friends who saw one at a home fair and made enquiries.

The 60sq/m two-bedroom house was not only put up in less than eight hours but cost less than R15 000.

"We have been living in this shack with six children for more than 10 years and now we are going to move to a proper house," said Mr Williams as a building team squared off the walls before erecting the roof trusses less than two hours after arriving on site.

An hour after work began on the roof trusses, the ceilings were installed and 90 minutes later the roofing sheets were laid on top of the house.

PVC window frames which effectively seal the house against wind and water were installed while another part of the team worked on the roof.

The concept of buying a house complete with plumbing from a supermarket was the brainchild of Peter Silberbauer of Rustic Homes. He thought it would revolutionise the housing industry in this country where affordable low-cost accommodation should be a priority.

"We wanted to get away from the conventional concrete block one-roomed home with a sink at the back and give people a house they can both afford and be proud of," Mr Silberbauer said.

The project became an obsession and every spare minute he had was spent planning how such a house could be produced and built by people with little or no constructiuon experience.

The concept got its name when Mr Silberbauer was telling his mother about it and said it could be built in the same way children use building blocks.

"Oh, you mean like a Logo set?" she asked.

"We all thought that was really funny and made some sense, so we called the houses Logo homes," Mr Silberbauer said.

Production has been been flat out for the six months since the launch.

In fact the company has been so inundated with calls that production could not initially keep up with demand.

"We received 2 000 enquiries the first time the concept was written about and it has taken us since then to recover from the obvious popularity of the houses," he said.

The Williams' home was a perfect example of what Mr Silberbauer has in mind. The construction was watched by many neighbours, who expressed surprise at how easy construction seemed to be.

"We would expect to erect a home in a neighbourhood which will spark interest. When the next is sold people will get together and help build it.

"It could be whole community bonding exercise and will provide a lot of opportunity for employment in areas where a number of homes are going to be built," says Mr Silberbauer, adding that the houses come complete with easy-to-follow instructions.

The whole house is in panels which can only be put together in one way.

Since the company started manufacturing, it has moved three times and will move again — but this time to a factory designed for the production of the houses.

So far the concept has not been taken up on any large scale by organisations needing emergency housing for the homeless but by people building holiday cottages or homes for their staff.

"But there is potential to erect an entire township in a matter of days."

Neighbours and Mr Wiliams' family in Kylemore were all amazed and interested in the speed of construction and the quality of the home.

All Mr Williams had to do before the sheets and panels were delivered was to lay a foundation for the house. And all he has to do now that the house is up is wire it for electricity.

The home comes with a complete plumbing system including a geyser in a kitchen sink unit.

"We are all family and help each other. My brothers and I laid the foundations in a few hours one Saturday once we knew we were getting the house," Mr Williams said.

Mrs Johanna Williams stood on the corner talking to neighbours telling them it was "unbelievable that there was nothing here this morning".

Squatter plan go-ahead

807

ARG 29/1/93

2 000 sites near Table View

JOHN VILJOEN
Staff Reporter

MILNERTON Town Council is going ahead with plans for more than 2 000 serviced sites for squatters at Du Noon, beside the N7 near Table View.

This is in spite of opposition from Malmesbury National Party MP Mr Gert Kotzé, some landowners near the site and some of the Marconi Beam squatters.

Town Clerk Mr Peter Gerber said yesterday: "As far as the municipality is concerned the question of the site has been finalised."

He appealed for goodwill and co-operation to allow the plan to proceed.

The council had acted in what it believed were the best interests of all concerned after 18 months of careful negotiation, during which 20 sites were considered.

The 90 ha Du Noon site would be available, probably not before November, for Milnerton's "homeless", Mr Gerber said. These would include the Marconi Beam squatters and others in the Milnerton area.

It was intended to provide infrastructure such as roads, stormwater drainage, sewerage, street lighting, electricity, schools, a clinic and recreational facilities.

Early "guestimates" were that this would cost about R31 million, Mr Gerber said. The land would not satisfy Milnerton's needs and dealing with urbanisation would be an continuing process.

Mr Kotzé, in whose constituency Du Noon lies, has condemned the plan, saying he is having difficulty calming angry constituents.

Mr Kotzé says he was not consulted on the proposal to accommodate squatters at Du Noon and has contacted Cape National Party leader Dr Dawie de Villiers about the issue.

But Milnerton town councillor Mr W H van Staden said his council would not be intimidated "by those who got cold feet when faced with the realities of South Africa".

Milnerton wanted to make a contribution to the normalisation of South Africa and was not going to wish the homeless problem away.

"We are prepared to take our responsibility like men," he said.

"We know we are right in this. It is the only moral and human thing to do."

Mr Van Staden said the Du Noon site would house the thousands of homeless in an area stretching from Milnerton to Melkbosstrand.

The Marconi Beam site was the largest — but not the only — concentration of homeless people in the area.

Mr Gerber said the municipality was relieved that the Cape Provincial Administration had approved its recommendation to move the homeless to Du Noon.

There was "substantial support" for Du Noon among those living at Marconi Beam, he said.

Some had refused to move — specifically grooms, stable hands and employees of the Cape Turf Club.

Certain ratepayers' associations and others have rejected the plan.

The council took the threat of a rates boycott by the Milnerton Ratepayers' Association seriously, he said. But so far no one had withheld rates.

Ratepayers had indicated they proposed to pay withheld rates into a trust fund administered by the association, Mr Gerber said.

Given sufficient goodwill and commitment on all sides, he was sure acceptable solutions would be possible.

Every effort should be made to ensure that by December or as soon as possible afterwards Milnerton's homeless were permanently settled under hygienic conditions.

He appealed to the entire community to work together to show the rest of South Africa "the way forward" in dealing with urbanisation.

Mr Dawie le Roux, A member of the Cape Provincial Administration's executive council, undertook yesterday to impress on the Milnerton municipality the importance of surrounding landowners taking part in decisions on the planning of the settlement.

Mr Le Roux, MEC charged with urbanisation, said after a meeting with concerned landowners that he had proposed they be represented on the municipality's development planning committee.

He had told them the planning would be done in such a way as to have the least possible impact on the surrounding residents.

"As the final layout plan is subject to the administrator's approval, they were assured of an avenue of representation on the final layout, should it be necessary."

He said he and his officials would be available for more discussions.



ADAMANT . . . Mr David Mhlangatshoba, chairperson of the Marconi Beam Civic Association, says the residents are determined not to move
Picture: JACK LESTRADE

Milnerton squatters dig in heels at plan to move them

ST Times Cape metro 3/11/93. (307)

By DIRK VAN EEDEN

MILNERTON Municipality's recommendation that residents of the informal settlement at Marconi Beam be moved to Du Noon was approved by the Cape Provincial Administration this week.

But for the residents of Marconi Beam, just opposite the racecourse along the N 7, negotiations aren't over yet — they said this week they had only heard about the proposed move to Du Noon through newspaper reports and refused to go there.

"I have been living here since 1990. It's close to our places of work and we do not want to leave it.

"We have told the municipality time and time again that we want to stay here and that they should rather upgrade the area. "We have 215 children who cannot go to school as the closest Xhosa schools which can accommodate them are in Langa," said Mrs Elda Mathlentle, who teaches Xhosa at the Milnerton Public Library.

Marconi Beam is regarded as unsuitable for long-term habitation.

Sixteen taps serve more than 6 500 people. There are no street lights, proper roads or sewage and only "about a hundred" dilapidated corrugated-iron bucket toilets. Uncollected refuse is piled up in the streets.

According to the acting chairperson of the Milnerton Ratepayers Association, Mr Willem van Zyl, studies they have done showed that only three to four percent of residents held permanent jobs.

"We are concerned, not only for the sake of the town, but also for the sake of these people," Mr van Zyl said yesterday.

The residents' demand to stay put is being backed from an unlikely quarter. Mr Gert Kotzé, MP for Malmesbury in whose constituency Du Noon falls, said this week he was strongly opposed to a less formal settlement there.

"I told Mr Louis Pienaar (MP for Milnerton) that I would not allow his problems to be palmed off on me.

"I also told Mr Kobus Meiring (Administrator of the Cape) that we don't want the West Coast and Swartland to become a province of the Transkei," Mr Kotzé said on Friday.

Mr Kotzé is upset that people in his constituency had no opportunity to state their views until the decision had been taken.

"They spoke to the squatters and the ANC, but they never spoke to us," Mr Kotzé said.

The same objection has been raised by Milnerton ratepayers.

Mr van Zyl said they were considering withholding their rates.

Valley of hope and despair

(367) ARGT 1/2/93.



SQUATTER VALLEY: Site 5 in the Noordhoek Valley has 456 newly serviced plots.

JOBLESS: Ms Ntombizana Mbambane, left, and Ms Nomfezeko Rhithi discuss the difficulties of being unemployed with Site 5 community leader Mr Wellington Rala.

Pictures: LEON MÜLLER The Argus.

HENRIËTTE GELDENHUYS, Staff Reporter

THOUSANDS of squatters who have moved to a permanent and serviced site in Noordhoek desperately need jobs.

Although Site 5 off Kommetjie Road in Sunnydale has street lights, tarred roads, running water, refuse removal and flush toilets, the vast majority of its residents have no income.

A Provincial Administration spokeswoman said the squatters would get their first accounts for services this month.

Few businesses operate in the picturesque valley and only a handful of squatters have found jobs as domestic workers, gardeners or casual labourers.

"I've been looking for a job as a domestic for over two years. There is nothing. We don't know who to turn to," said Ms Nomfezeko Rhithi, 30, a single mother with four children under 11.

"I just want a job ... to clean windows ... anything," said Ms Ntombizana Mbambane, 29, a single mother of three young children.

Squatter leader Mr Wellington Rala said: "I'm scared that if people don't find jobs, they will turn to crime. They're hungry. People are struggling badly. Many are trying to sell wood."

"There is obviously a dire need for jobs," said Ms Sandy Dowling of the Catholic Welfare Bureau, which runs a pre-school and community kitchen at Site 5.

At the primary school, one Department of Education and Training teacher gives lessons to 110 pupils, helped by a voluntary worker from the Catholic Welfare Bureau.



Mr Dennis Hermansen ... appreciates the squatters' plight.

Between November and January 15, squatter families from the Green Point camp 4 km away, others living near Site 5 and a small group of Fish Hoek squatters moved in to 401 of the 456 serviced plots.

Another 1 000 more squatters are living on unserviced land nearby.

Many have settled there recently, taking the place of squatters who moved to the developed site, said Mr Rala.

"They are anxious to have their site developed too, but are worried that it will take years and years," he said.

Right next to Site 5 in Lekkerwater Street, about 17 white-owned smallholdings had devalued by at least 50 percent, said Ms Wendy Urquhart, who has an 8 000 sq m property there.

"Our properties have devalued beyond speech. There is a lot of bitterness because of that," she said.

The owner of Four Winds, Mr Dennis Hermansen, said he bought his smallholding to sell when he retired, but "nobody wants to buy here and my income has been reduced to a pension".

But the property owners were adamant there was no increase in crime since the squatters moved in and that they did not feel unsafe.

"The squatters haven't hassled us. There is no crime. They're a bunch of people and they need some place to stay," said Mr Hermansen.

Ms Dowling agreed: "There is not an increase in crime in the area. Crime and squatters are sometimes associated — it's ridiculous. They are there because of a shortage of housing, not because they are a bunch of outcasts."

Squatter housing to go ahead

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE government is to press ahead with the development of the Du Noon area for squatter housing despite the opposition of local Nationalists, the Cape leader of the party, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

The National Party in the Malmesbury constituency has publicly opposed the Du Noon development, which includes informal housing.

Among those opposed to the plans is the local House of Assembly MP, Mr Gert Kotze, a former cabinet minister.

Dr De Villiers said he had held discussions with NP office-bearers in the Malmesbury constituency, the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, and others before the decision to proceed was taken.

Mr Kotze had submitted a memorandum with a variety of standpoints from Malmesbury voters, he said.

Big service arrears at Vrygrond

Municipal Reporter

VRYGROND squatters have run up R77 793 in arrears service charges — and have been wasting water, a housing committee report said.

City planner Mr Neville Riley said future development of the site would have to be linked to the ability to pay.

At a meeting of city councillors, officials and the Vrygrond Community Committee last month, the council offered to provide a facilitator to help solve friction.

A previous agreement that no new unauthorised structures would be put up had been violated, because 42 new shacks had been built in the past three months. It was agreed these should be demolished.

Mr Riley warned that demolition would require extra staff who would work "at great personal risk".

City engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said excessive use of water was being caused by people connecting hosepipes to stand-pipes provided for general use, to provide water to their own shacks.

A meeting would be held with community leaders.

Rubbish, say squatters

SOUTH 6/2-10/2/93

By Sabata Ngcai (307)

MORE than R500 000 is spent every month by Ikapa Town Council (ITC) to pay a private company to remove refuse from the African squatter areas, sources in the municipality have revealed.

But the garbage is not being collected and is piling up, constituting a health hazard, claim the civic associations in the areas.

Ironically, the ITC is spending this money every month after it recently retrenched a number of African employees on the pretext that it was experiencing financial difficulties.

A senior source in the municipality said the company, SA Bio-Tech, which is supposed to remove refuse everyday, had netted between R450 000 and R600 000 a month from September last year to January this year.

Tha company was contracted from September last year.

The source said the company received R450 000 at the end of September last year and R600 000 at the end of January this year. The amount is said to be increasing every month because of the daily growth of squatter areas.

The source said: "It is clear the management of ITC has vested interests in the company at the expense of the poor employees it retrenched."

The source argued that the money "spent lavishly" could have been better used to buy more refuse trucks and create more jobs.

Attempts to trace SA Bio-Tech have been unsuccessful.

Squatter leader Mr Enoch Madywabe confirmed that ITC had contracted the services of a private company to remove refuse from the squatter areas.

Madywabe refused to name the company.

He said the squatter areas include Philippi, Black City, Milner's Camp, Mpinga Square and KTC.

Madywabe refused to comment further because the "Western Cape United Squatters Association, and ITC were still trying to iron out a few things related to the company".

ITC chief executive officer Mr Jacobus Olivier said SA Bio-Tech had tendered for the cleansing of the squatter areas.

He said the figures quoted were incorrect but refused to give the correct amount.

He said the ITC was saving about R4 million a year by contracting a private company.



DUMPING GROUND: Squatters dumping their refuse on a pile of uncollected garbage Photo: Yunus Mohamed

Squatters win time to contest interdict

MG 6/2/23 30

Supreme Court Reporter

AN attempt by Milnerton Estates Limited to get an interdict against squatters occupying land it owns has been postponed.

Milnerton Estates is interdicting Mr Tyland Ndengane and 29 others from depriving it of "the possession, use and enjoyment" of the remainder of erf 10099 in Milnerton and wants them evicted.

Mr Ndengane claimed their community was a tight-knit one which had lived together for many years and had been forced to live in the bush because of the critical housing shortage in the Western Cape.

Mr Justice Thring postponed the application until March 15 to give the respondents time to file affidavits.

Squatter case postponed

Supreme Court Reporter

AN application for the eviction of 30 squatters from land near Table View owned by Milnerton Estates Limited — of which Sir De Villiers Graaff is director — was postponed yesterday to March 15 for trial in the Supreme Court. (307)

Mr Justice W Thring ordered the squatters — except two who have already done so — to file opposing affidavits by February 26 and Milnerton Estates to file replying affidavits by March 5.

The company said it received complaints that squatters stole water.

CT 6/2/93

(307) ARG 10/2/93

Eviction notices sent to families 'to test reaction'

PORT ELIZABETH. — The Jeffreys Bay municipality had no intention of evicting 22 squatter families despite giving them notice to leave by the end of the week, the town clerk said.

Mr Franz Viljoen confirmed that eviction notices were sent to several families at the Tjoksville squatter camp but said this was only done to "get reaction" from the squatters.

Last year 39 families from the Kabeljous Rivers Valley in Jeffreys Bay were given permission to settle "temporarily" in the camp until they could find a "permanent" settlement.

They were joined by 22 families, also from Kabeljous, and it was these families that received notice to leave.

Mr Viljoen said action had been taken after the first 39 families complained about further influx.

However, Democratic Party MP for Port Elizabeth Central Eddie Trent said he could find no logical reason for the removal of the 22 families.

After a visit requested by the squatter community, Mr Trent said: "My impression of the community is one of stability and harmony — there is even evidence of the development of an informal business sector.

Meanwhile, an hotel owner from Morgan Bay, near East London, will appeal against his conviction for allowing shacks on his property.

Mr Jeff Warren-Smith, owner of the Morgan Bay Hotel, last week became the first private landowner in the Cape to be convicted for allowing squatting.

He was found guilty on two counts under the Illegal Squatting Act in the Kei Mouth Magistrate's Court, and was fined R1 000 or six months' imprisonment, suspended for five years.

He was also ordered by the court to demolish all unoccupied structures on his property at his own cost. The magistrate ruled it was his responsibility to prevent new shacks from being built on the land and prevent more people moving on to his property.

"I want to appeal. I was trying to help people who have no place to stay," Mr Warren-Smith said.

He said there were about 40 families living on the 2 ha plot. Most of them were born and grew up on a neighbouring pineapple farm, which closed down three years ago, leaving them homeless and unemployed.

Mr Warren-Smith said the previous owner of the Morgan Bay Hotel allowed his workers to live on the land "and I inherited the squatters from him".

"I did not give them permission to stay here, but I will not evict them. These people stayed on this property long before I came," he said.

He had built a tent church and and a pre-primary school about 8 km from the hotel for the shack-dwellers' children. "I help them because they help me and we protect each other," Mr Warren-Smith said.

The local council had claimed that the squatters were a health hazard — but then switched off their water, he said.

"It was a crazy action. How can they close their water while claiming they were a health hazard?"

Mr Warren-Smith was today consulting with a lawyer about lodging an appeal. — Ecna.

Squatters to move to new site at end of May

CT 16/2/93

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

HOUT BAY squatters could take occupation of the 306 sites at the Imizamo Yethu Village by the end of May if work is completed on schedule, said a Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) source this week.

Spokeswoman Ms Melanie Dedekind said the allocation of sites would have to begin by the end of April to make relocation by the following month possible.

She said: "Within the next week, the CPA will compile flyers in conjunction with the Civic Association which will discuss projected dates and what format the re-location will take."

Removing trees

The community will also be asked to decide on street names as soon as possible so the contractor can order the kerbing with the street names embossed on it. "It was decided that Imizamo Yethu would stay the formal name of the development," she said.

At present, the contractor is removing trees in the way of future roadworks and underground services. Also, all dead or dying trees have been marked and will soon be removed.

Criteria set out

Those that are felled will be stacked into three piles — one containing foliage and thin branches that can be used as firewood, another consisting of larger branches to be used as erosion protection against steep banks and a third pile comprising larger trunks that have been cut to manageable lengths.

"The contractor will provide vehicles and some helpers for use by the CPA during the relocation. The CPA will provide nails and temporary accommodation to help the residents through this period," she said.

Vice-chairman of the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, Mr Joe Lazarus, who sits on the Hout Bay Liaison Committee, told the Review that discussions were being held to determine the criteria for the allocation of sites.

"The University of Cape Town conducted a survey on this issue which has been given to the CPA for analysis. They will then be able to say how many of the people currently living there will qualify for a site," he said.

Squatter appeal dismissed

(30) CT 16/2/93

Supreme Court Reporter

AN appeal by 10 squatters against an order that they vacate their homes on a Bellville farm was dismissed yesterday in the Supreme Court by a Full Bench.

The appeal was brought Mr Joseph Fabian and nine people who occupied "Soete Inval", a farm in the Bellville area, owned by Mr Cecil Morgan.

The farm was rezoned for industrial purposes and was being converted into an industrial complex. It was necessary to demolish the premises, the court heard.

Mr Fabian and the others denied they received proper notice, but the court found that the non-payment of rent was — in the absence of any explanation — an indication of the acceptance of all the terms negotiated with Mr Morgan, one of which was that they would vacate the premises by June 15.

Squatters lose court plea

Staff Reporter (307) AUG 17 2 93

AN appeal by 13 squatter families against a Supreme Court order evictng them from a Bellville farm has been dismissed.

The families were ordered to leave Mr Cecil Morgan's farm Soete Inval in July as it was being converted into an industrial township.

They appealed against the order but the appeal was dismissed with costs by Mr Justice Friedman yesterday.

The court found Mr Morgan had not acted unreasonably as he had granted the squatters a three-month extension to stay on the farm after the time they were supposed to leave.

SQUATTERS FM 26/2/93.

(307)

Nats to the rescue

Verligte Cape Nationalists, including provincial leader Dawie de Villiers, have vetoed objections by party supporters in Milnerton to a new squatter settlement in the town. The disgruntled Nats are headed by conservative former Cabinet Minister Gert Kotze. He is still MP for Malmesbury, which includes Du Noon, the area earmarked for the settlement. The move is a victory for Milnerton municipality, which has faced an uphill battle against white residents opposed to the development.

The 88 ha site at Du Noon, alongside the N7 highway to Malmesbury, will provide about 2 000 plots for squatters now living in scattered settlements throughout Milnerton. Many have lived in the area for years.

Milnerton town councillor Willem van Staden, at the forefront of efforts to provide a serviced residential area for squatters, says he isn't surprised by De Villiers's decision to override local Nat objections.

"Our proposals are in line with government policy; they are also the moral thing to do. People have a right to permanency." He says someone has to take responsibility for housing homeless people. It should be the local MP — but he declined.

Expropriation

The Du Noon site will be expropriated from eight private owners. Milnerton municipality will raise about R31m to buy and service the land. The 160 m^2 sites will be sold to residents.

Among the senior Nats who backed De Villiers's decision were Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring and provincial executive council member Dawie le Roux. Van Staden says Kotze's efforts to stop the development have held it up "for a considerable time" and it is not expected to be ready until the end of the year at the earliest.

He understands that both Nat branches in the immediate area affected by Du Noon backed Kotze's view, except for the chairman of one branch, Jimmy Fouché, grandson of the former State President of the same name. Van Staden concedes that whites don't like the idea of squatters in their midst but the municipality realised two years ago, when it started working on the project, that it was in a precarious situation. ■

Plans for Table View squatter area disclosed

(307)

ARG 11/3/93

LENORE OLIVER, Staff Reporter

PRELIMINARY development proposals for Du Noon, the informal housing settlement near Table View, have been put to residents and squatters.

The plans were disclosed by Milnerton town planner Mr Chris van Schoor, town administrator Mr Trevor Hollis-Turner and representatives of an urban planning company at a meeting last night.

Residents were given 21 days to submit objections to the municipality.

Mr Van Schoor said the 90 ha site could accommodate 2 100 serviced plots and would be divided into superblocks or residential cells, each with its own identity.

It was hoped planning would be completed by the end of the month and servicing of plots would begin before winter. People would probably start moving on to the site towards the end of the year.

Mr Van Schoor emphasised that people had to build their own houses. Because it was an informal scheme, any building material could be used.

Each site would have a toilet and piped water while electricity would be available. Residents would pay for their plots according to their income.

Roads would be tarred and street lighting would be provided.

Also proposed were four primary schools, one high school, four creches, a community centre, a taxi rank, a cemetery, a railway station, 1,9 ha for churches, clinics and community facilities and 7,5 ha for sportsfields.

Mr Hollis-Turner said the municipality would do everything to aid the squatters and would look into helping them move from the Marconi Beam site to Du Noon.



HORROR . . . Children of Crossroads point to the spot were Zithobile Mgangane was gunned down outside his friend's house by unidentified gunmen. He was admitted to the Groote Schuur Hospital with multiple bullet wounds.

CTpress 14/3/93

Crossroads chaos is looming

(307)

By SOBANTU XAYIYA

TENSION is running high between the SACP and ANC squatter leader Jeffrey Nongwe after this week's violence left two people wounded and a shack razed to the ground in Crossroads, Cape Town.

Residents fear violence could flare up and engulf the whole area after an attempt to assassinate the ANC leader was made on Wednesday in retaliation for the burnings and shootings.

They say the attacks were the result of seething anger over the introduction of the SACP branch which questioned the administration of the squatter leader.

Violence

At least two people were critically injured and one corrugated iron shack razed in the violence.

The injured, Sebanzile Mpokela, 37, and Zithobile Mgangane, 35, now at Groote Schuur Hospital, were shot after gunmen opened fire on their houses.

According to Kitskonstabel Richard Mpokela, 45, his brother Sebenzile was shot in the hip and his house was burnt down.

"The attackers ran away when neighbours came to investigate the shots," said Mpokela.

He alleged that the people who shot and burnt his house were "Nongwe's people".

However, the ANC and Steering Committing chairman Jeffrey Nongwe said the allegations were a plot to tarnish his reputation.

Resident Amos Nyhakatya, 44, said the SACP had organised the whole of Crossroads and Nongwe had problems with the party programme of not differentiating between people who live in tin-shacks and brick houses.

"The chairman wanted a list of the communist party membership. We refused him the list," said Nyhakatya.

Nyhakatya alleged that after the shootings and the burning of Mpokela's house, he was summoned to a meeting by Nongwe.

"I was surprised the shootings and the burnings were never discussed in the meeting. There was not even concern. Instead I was asked about the money I owed to the Steering Committee," he said.

"From the meeting I went to my house and that night a visitor, Zithobile Mgengane, was fired at as we were greeting each other outside my house.

"Zithobile was hit on the leg and hip. Under heavy gunfire I dragged him inside the house, switched off the lights, and ordered my wife and children to lie flat on the floor.

"I was confused, and Zithobile was bleeding profusely.

"I heard a voice shouting: 'Masitshise amabhulu asinikile imvume! (lets burn the house the Boers have given us permission)'.

"But fortunately for us our attackers panicked and ran away."

Nyhakatya alleged the Steering Committee was attempting to force the residents of Crossroads Section Two to a temporary site so the present site could be upgraded.

"This was done in 1990. We moved the residents of Section One to lower Crossroads with the understanding that water, pumps, toilets and brick houses would be erected, but to this day, nothing has happened," he said.

"Nongwe promised the community of Crossroads they could necklace him should he fail to fulfill his promise."

However, Nongwe said residents with complaints should not hide behind the SACP.

"I don't have problems with the Party," he said.

Upgrading

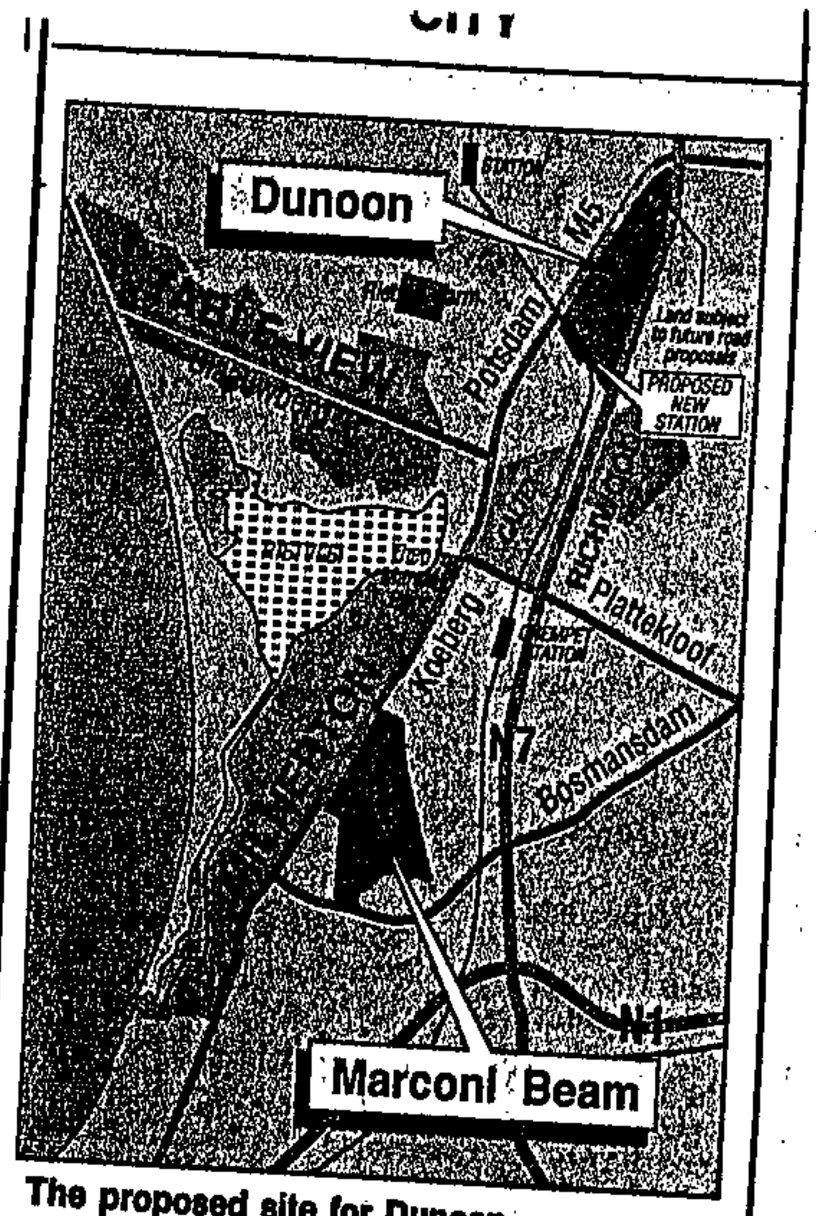
"The decision to have the whole of Crossroads upgraded was taken a long time ago, and the very same people opposing the removals were part of the decision.

"Progress on upgrading has been delayed by lack of space as a school and a clinic are part of the upgrading package. However, the actual building is commencing later this month.

"There is no such a thing as forcing people to move. Those who want to stay can stay and a person can belong to any political organisation," Nongwe said.

He declined to comment on the recent violence.

The ANC western Cape region said in a statement they had not adopted a position at the time. However, the organisation said they were convinced the conflict was not a political matter.



The proposed site for Dunoon ... concerns about crime and property values.

Richwood anger over new site for squatters

ARG 15/3/93 (307)

LENORE OLIVER, Staff Reporter

RICHWOOD residents are upset about Dunoon, the proposed informal housing settlement near their suburb, saying they believe crime will increase and the value of their properties will drop.

"The first time I heard about the Dunoon site was when I saw the articles in the newspapers," said resident Mr Martin Walsh who has been living there for six months.

"The municipality never consulted us about the issue, neither was there any circular about the new settlement," he said.

Mr Walsh said the authorities should not make decisions without consulting the people they affected.

"How are they going to control the borders of such a settlement? It will just grow and grow," he said.

"The area will become just another serviced Khayelitsha where people can build anything they want," he said.

"Although the N7 separates us from the settlement, people will use Richwood as a thoroughfare to shops and this will lead to thefts and break-ins."

Mr Marius Rossouw said he was concerned about the effect the settlement would have on the value of his house.

"If I decided to sell I would never make a profit because it is next to a squatter settlement," he said.

"We are paying for decisions made by people who live far away from the settlement.

"We pay for the people who make these kind of decisions and in the long run we will pay because the crime rate will certainly increase," Mr Rossouw said.

"They (the squatters) are hardly paying for anything, while I had to pay R150 000 for a two-bedroomed house.

"I have nothing against the colour of the people who are going to live there. But if it was an area with proper housing with people with jobs who would add positively to the area, it would have been a different matter.

"Crime will increase and will result in my not being able even to leave my garden hose outside."

Mr John Cloete, who has lived in Richwood for a year, said the Milnerton Municipality should have had the decency to inform the residents.

"That is the least they could have done. These squatters will rob us of everything and we, who have worked and paid for everything, will have nothing," he said.

Squatter 'mover' shot

A MAN employed by the Western Cape United Squatters' Association (Wecusa) to help move families in Old Crossroads squatter camp to Lower Crossroads was shot and injured yesterday.

He has been admitted to hospital with a head wound. (307) CT 18/3/93

Most of the 200 residents have refused to move while their area is being upgraded. They understood houses would be built for them but in fact the authorities would only service the sites with water, toilets and roads.

One person has been killed and nine shot and wounded in the township in the past month.

'Forced removals' by community leader threaten peace



MAN IN THE MIDDLE: Controversial Crossroads leader, Jeffrey Nongwe. His drive to temporarily relocate squatters in Section 2 has been met with fierce opposition

Photo: Yunus Mohamed

Hopeful efforts to defuse Crossroads timebomb

307

SOUTH 20/3 - 24/3/93.

By Quentin Wilson

ANC mediators are working round the clock to defuse the Crossroads timebomb that has threatened to explode since early last week.

Tensions arose when local ANC chairperson Mr Jeffrey Nongwe decided Section Two residents should temporarily move to Phillipi East so that an upgrading scheme in the area could go ahead.

According to local ANC leaders, there are deep concerns the conflict could reach 1986 proportions if the matter is not dealt with delicately and promptly.

So far, the situation is being contained and steps are under way to remove the potential for further conflict.

Nongwe is working closely with local councillors who promised to provide serviced sites in the area.

Many residents, most of who are ANC members, believe the decision to move is a mistake.

They say it would be foolish as they are sceptical the upgrading will take place. If it does, they want firm guarantees they would be allowed to return.

Resistance to Nongwe's plan was fierce. On Friday, 3 000 residents protested in a march against what they saw as "forced removals".

During the past fortnight, one person was shot dead, four people were wounded by gunfire and a shack was razed.

There were numerous other shootings, fuelling tension in the area.

On Wednesday morning, 46-year-old Zwelipela Betele was shot in the head while breaking down a shack. He is in a stable condition in hospital.

After this shooting, 11 soldiers from the SADF's Cape Corps joined riot police to help with patrols.

Allegations and counter-allegations have followed each act of violence.

On Tuesday, following a week of intense mediation, a four-hour meeting was held between all concerned groups at the ANC's regional office.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the ANC's regional executive, the SACP's regional leadership, representatives of Crossroads residents and Mr Nongwe, as well as ANC members who disagree with him.

The meeting ended on a note of hope — all parties agreed to a public meeting on Wednesday evening in Crossroads to allow residents a chance to air their views.

It was agreed at Tuesday's meeting that residents could do what they wished. Those in Section Two who are prepared to move, would be accommodated, while those who don't, could stay.

Wednesday's meeting was also held to clear up misconceptions about the causes of the tension, as well as the upgrading scheme and its consequences.

Mr Lizo Nkonki, SACP general secretary in the Western Cape, left the meeting and said he was "quietly confident" the matter would be solved.

"The main problem was a lack of communication between the Crossroads ANC leaders and their members. The leaders took a decision thinking the people wanted to move.

"We have to hear, once and for all, whether the people want to move or not."

Nkonki said reports of a feud between the ANC and the SACP in Crossroads should be regarded as "complete nonsense".

"The local SACP branch was never set up to oppose the ANC branch. We in the party asked them if we could, and they encouraged us."

Nongwe confirmed what Nkonki said.

Fears of all-out war as townships simmer

S/Times [Cape metro] 21/3/93. (307)

TWO of Cape Town's most densely-populated squatter areas are this weekend poised on a knife-edge that could erupt in all-out war, as residents shape up for a showdown with autocratic squatter leaders, accused of acting like "warlords".

By CHIARA CARTER and SOBANTU XAYIYA

The growing tensions could have far-reaching consequences for peace prospects in the Peninsula as tens of thousands of people live in the affected areas — Crossroads and Brown's Farm — both ANC strongholds.

Brown's Farm leader Christopher Toise has fled to a school on the outskirts of the area after he was attacked and shots were fired at his car earlier this week.

A photographer who visited the school said it was heavily fortified and "there are armed guards all over the place. Toise is also carrying a gun".

Meanwhile Crossroads leader, Jeffrey Nongwe, is "fighting for his political life" following conflict with residents unhappy with his style of management. They have also voiced doubts about plans to upgrade the area.

And, according to sources, residents in Brown's Farm this week called on Mr Toise to answer critics at a public meeting in the area.

They alleged that he had been taking money from the community and ruled with "an iron fist".



AUTOCRAT? ... Crossroads leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, who is "fighting for his political life"

Both Mr Nongwe and Mr Toise are prominent ANC figures who head gigantic branches. Their opponents are also ANC supporters.

The ANC has been treading a wary path between the opposing groups.

However, the organisation has long been aware of unhappiness with Mr Nongwe, who deposed former Crossroads mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, in 1990.

Soon after Mr Nongwe assumed control of Crossroads, dissatisfaction emerged with residents claiming he was ruling in the same "authoritarian style". They alleged he was extracting money from residents and using violence to crush opposition. Opponents claimed he had refused permission to launch a Youth and Women's league in the area.

In the past few weeks there have been a series of attacks and counter-attacks by the various factions and earlier this week a petrol bomb was thrown at the car of another squatter leader, Western Cape United Squatters Association (Wecusa) secretary, Enoch Madywabe.

In the latest incident of violence in Crossroads, two men and a woman were shot dead and a boy wounded on Friday night after a gunman opened fire on a house.

Yesterday ANC leaders Allan Boesak, Patrick Lekota, Jan van Eck, Tony Yengeni and Jannie Momberg visited the bereaved families.

According to observers involved in mediation, the situation has the potential to errupt into conflict reminiscent of the bloody warfare that engulfed Crossroads in 1986.

Prior to this week, Mr Toise had commanded the support of youth and ANC cadres in the area — but according to sources, he has lost ground as a result of his involvement in Wecusa, which has long been at loggerheads with the South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco).

Mr Nongwe is chairman of Wecusa.

Critics of Mr Toise and Mr Nongwe claim they are "warlords" who rule though a headman system with the support of what amounts to private armies.

The developments at Brown's Farm have alarmed monitoring groups who fear further conflict.

"If Toise finds common ground with Nongwe and other Wecusa leaders we could see conflict like that of the mid-'80s," an observer said.

Fear that the conflict might spread has led the ANC to conduct urgent peace talks in Crossroads where conflict exploded last week.

The tensions centred on attempts by Mr Nongwe to move people from Section Two so that the area could be upgraded.

Opponents of Mr Nongwe claimed he had promised the people of Section One houses and had now done a deal with the authorities to provide only site and service schemes.

Residents accuse Mr Nongwe of breaking an agreement brokered by the ANC earlier this week in terms of which residents would be free to choose whether to move to the temporary site.

The CPA has been working through Mr Nongwe and Wecusa to upgrade the entire area.

Mr Nongwe said he was willing to step down as chairman of the ANC in the area if "the people" asked him, but he would not listen to a "clique".

Mr Nongwe said the "root cause" of the prob-



ANGRY WOMAN ... With an ANC official beside her, this woman told a meeting in Crossroads week that her baby was all she had left after her home had been destroyed

Pictures: FANIE JASON



21/03/93

307

...the local ANC Unathi branch which he accused of "interfering" in the internal affairs of Crossroads.

A local branch of the Communist Party, set up recently as a result of the dissatisfaction with Mr Nongwe has grown rapidly as people flock to join their ranks

Nongwe blamed people for "using the SACP for their own agendas".

Mr Maphassa said the SACP had yet to officially approach the committee to discuss organising in the area.

"We do not have a problem with the SACP in the region, but here people are using the SACP to fight aginst us," Maphassa said.

BURNT OUT . . . The shack belonging to a prominent opponent of Mr Nongwe, SACP organiser Mr Amos Nyhakatya, above, was razed

Mr Nongwe said peace had been restored in the area.

This follows a tense meeting in Crossroads earlier this week to resolve the conflict which has so far resulted in one death and eight people being injured.

After the meeting, the shack belonging to a prominent oponent of Mr Nongwe, SACP organiser Mr Amos Nyhakatya, was razed.

A member of Mr Nongwe's Crossroads steering committee, Mr Vuyisile Mpande, narrowly escaped death in an attack at Section Two when a bullet went through his abdomen while he was calling a meeting.

In another incident, a 50-year-old Crossroads woman watched helplessly as her two sons were gunned down in front of her house.

Miss Nondimu Gali said she watched in horror as Lindithemba Gulumbela, 21, was shot dead and his sixteen-year-old brother, Jongisizwe Nyamankulu, was seriously injured in an attack by two armed men.



CAUTIOUS . . . Brown's Farm ANC leader Mr Christopher Toise relaxes after an attempt on his life at the weekend.

Squatter ANC leader flees attack

CT 22/3/93

(1307) (0208)

Staff Reporters

CONTROVERSIAL Brown's Farm ANC leader Mr Christopher Toise survived a weekend attack by a crowd of people armed with pangas and guns.

Mr Toise, who is also vice-chairman of the Western Cape United Squatters' Association (Wecusa), said his attackers were people from outside the camp who had been invited there to discuss grievances.

Mr Toise and his committee fled to a nearby school building which is fortified and was yesterday teeming with armed guards.

Meanwhile, the ANC has expressed outrage at the continued violence in Crossroads where three people were killed in other attacks at the weekend.

Speaking after a visit to the squatter camp, Dr Allan Boesak said the ANC would not tolerate violence of any kind and would continue to meet daily with the community until the conflict was resolved.

On Friday evening Mrs Joyce Elles, Mr Sicelo Pauli and a Mr Soga were shot dead in a private residence in Unathi Section, Crossroads.

Ayanda Ndiniso, 15, Mrs Elles' nephew, was shot in the leg in the attack.

The violence revolves around the alleged involvement of senior local ANC member Mr Jeffrey Nongwe in the forced removal of residents by the council in an upgrading programme.

● Police are to step up patrols in Crossroads and have offered rewards for information leading to arrests following recent murders and attacks there.

ATLANTIC & WATERFRONT RI

Help urged for housing project

(307) CT 23/3/A

FAMILIES who have erected shacks on the site-and-service scheme bordering Ocean View and Kommetjie Road have lived in the bush there "under terrible conditions" for seven years.

In response to recent vociferous complaints from Ocean View and Kommetjie residents who feel the development — which looks very much like a squatter camp — will devalue their properties, representatives on the Ocean View Development Trust have asked for patience and assistance with the project instead of criticism.

Mrs Beverly Jansen, chairman of the Ocean View Residents' Association and a member of the trust, said most people who were upset about the development did not really understand what was happening there.

She said: "Those now on the property have been living in the bush with no sanitation and no services, their rubbish was never removed and they had no roads.

Living in comfort

"The bushes had to come down to make way for the bulldozers building roads. These people had to have somewhere to live so we've put them on their sites while we find loans for them from the House of Representatives and financial institutions — and already all sorts of offers have been made and the people themselves are saving.

"Nothing can happen overnight, though. It is so sad because many of the Ocean View residents who are upset are living in comfort while they complain about close relatives on the development. Besides this, those on the site are feeling terrible about everything."

The controversial R5,24-million scheme — funded by the Independent Development Trust and implemen by Cape Utility Homes and the O — will ultimately provide mu needed housing for 700 families f the community who earn less t R1 000 a month.

Mrs Sandy Dowling, a Komme resident represented on the trust is also co-ordinator of the Cath Welfare Bureau in Ocean View, sa meeting had already been held wi number of nurseries and environr tal societies who were keen to with greening the area.

She said only 35 of the sites w be given to squatters who had l living there and were 'part of whole fight for land'.

Different approach

"The land had been set aside low-income housing for a long and the authorities could never up their minds how to go about

"When they eventually put i infrastructure, right at the top e cost them R17 000 a plot and they ised they would have to sell th the middle-income group. A dif approach had to be taken towar rest of the plots to make them su for low income housing." Fundi roads and flush toilets came fr IDT, making it possible for the plots to be cheaper, she said.

"It is unrealistic to expect houses from people who ear than R1 000 a month but there others can do to provide assi Employers can help by subs their employees, by giving ad even by standing surety for a

Mrs Dowling said the devel would ease the overcrowd Ocean View which would have tive social spin-off.

"It will be easier for childre homework, there will be less in the households and it will healthy generally."

Squatters claim leader rules like a warlord

ARG 23/3/93

EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

SQUATTER leader Christopher Toise has fallen out with his followers over allegations that he is a warlord who is running Brown's Farm in Philippi as if it was his own kingdom.

At least three shacks have been burnt down and the fiery Mr Toise, 60, and his men were attacked during a meeting in a disused factory off Lansdowne Road, Mr Toise's headquarters. The factory came under a barrage of gunfire during the attack by more than 2 000 Brown's Farm residents.

Residents yesterday said Mr Toise and his men were making life unbearable in the camp.

They alleged Mr Toise, Brown's Farm chairman of the ANC and vice-chairman of the Western Cape United Squatters' Association (Wecusa), was charging each of more than 14 000 households R2,50 a month.

This money allegedly went into his own pocket and his men "arrested, charged and fined wrongdoers" in the camp.

One shebeener said her television set was confiscated when the patrollers found her watching it one night.

"They accused me of being cheeky by playing the TV at night and they took it. When I resisted they assaulted me with sjamboks," the woman said, showing weals on her legs and arms.

She said she had to be treated at Groot Schuur Hospital, where she was advised to lay charges against her attackers.

Residents claimed confiscated goods were returned only on payment of a fee — R25 for radios, R100 for hi-fi sets and R50 for TV sets.



Mr Christopher Toise

At his hideout, where he is guarded by several "security men", Mr Toise — a praise singer during the release of Mr Nelson Mandela from Victor Verster prison in 1990 — yesterday denied most of the allegations.

He said he was not in hiding, nor had he run away, but had been staying on the premises since the beginning of the month.

The prefabricated building had been bought from a private company and was earmarked for sewing projects his committee would establish.

Nobody was charged any rent, he said, and the R2,50 was an amount agreed "voluntarily" by residents themselves to contribute to his well-being.

"They asked me to stop working because I'm looking after the affairs of this area."

Mr Toise said the trouble in Brown's Farm began last week when one of his committee members from another part of the camp told him he and other headmen were being "threatened" by other ANC executive members.

"I brought the groups together last week to restore peace in the community and things were sorted out. But on Friday I heard that the men's committee, (ANC) was going to attack ours (Wecusa).

"On Saturday two of our members from G section reported to me that they had been told 'blood would flow'.

"We then arranged a meeting with them and later 12 of us met in one of these rooms," said Mr Toise.

While the group was in the meeting a crowd — including "many outsiders" — attacked, he said.

"They first broke down the door with pangas before firing randomly ... and I threw myself to the ground," he said, pointing to bullet holes in the walls and windows.

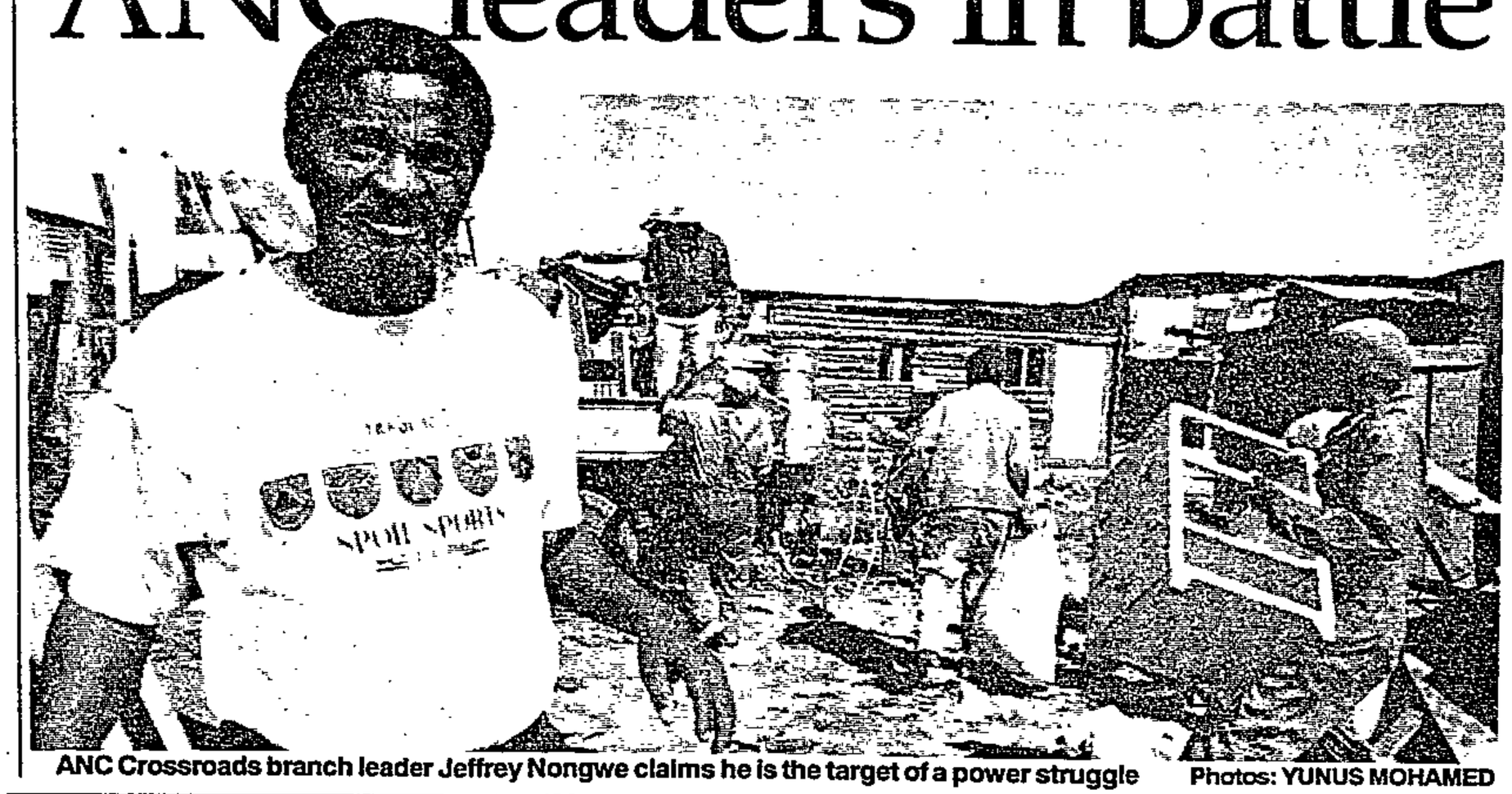
Nobody was hit but 32 residents were later arrested, it was learnt yesterday.

Mr Toise said the squabble was between Wecusa and the South African National Civics Organisation (Sanco), both aligned with the ANC.

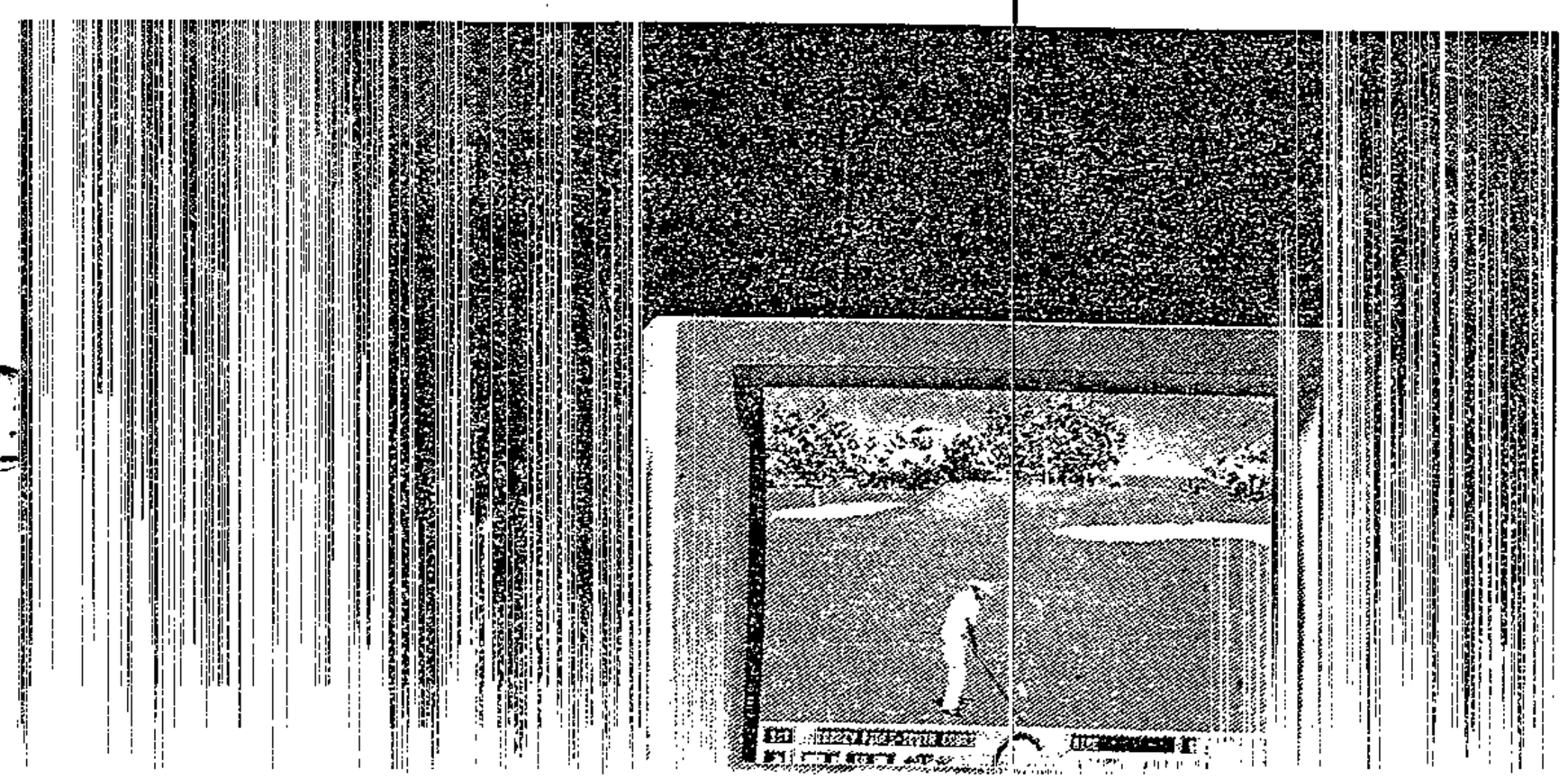
● More than 500 Brown's Farm women, toyi-toying and chanting anti-Toise slogans, yesterday marched to the Nyanga police station to demand the release of their "husbands and boyfriends" arrested in connection with the feud.

Three of their representatives were called into the police station to negotiate.

ANC leaders in battle for the shacklands



ANC Crossroads branch leader Jeffrey Nongwe claims he is the target of a power struggle Photos: YUNUS MOHAMED



Two men who head two of the largest branches of the African National Congress in the western Cape stand accused of turning themselves into warlords.

By **GAYE DAVIS**

THE African National Congress flag is still flying above Crossroads squatter leader Jeffrey Nongwe's three-roomed shack, a symbol of his chairmanship of the Crossroads ANC branch — said to be one of the largest in the region.

But the question is how long that flag will continue to flutter, in the face of demands that Nongwe be stripped of his ANC position. Once hailed as a saviour for ousting former mayor and *witdoek* vigilante leader Johnson Ngxobongwana, Nongwe is now accused of being no better than his predecessor, of ruling "with an iron fist" and using hitmen to eliminate those who oppose him.

Nongwe is not the only squatter leader fighting for political survival in what is emerging as a major challenge to the hegemony of squatter leaders in the region and their organisation, the Western Cape United Squatters' Association (Wecusa).

A few kilometres from Crossroads, in the Brown's Farm settlement, Christopher Toise sits in an office while armed guards patrol outside, vigilant against another attempt on his life after that launched by unknown gunmen earlier this month.

Toise, chairman of the Brown's Farm ANC branch, also said to be one of the largest in the region, faces mounting criticism from dissatisfied residents about his style of leadership, monthly collections of R2,50 from each shack, and headmen who allegedly confiscate residents' belon[illegible]



Jeffrey Nongwe ... Accused of ruling with an iron fist

was forcing them to move under threat of being shot or having their homes burned, fuelled discontent, offering fertile ground for those organising opposition to Nongwe.

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Van Eck sees it as the end of an

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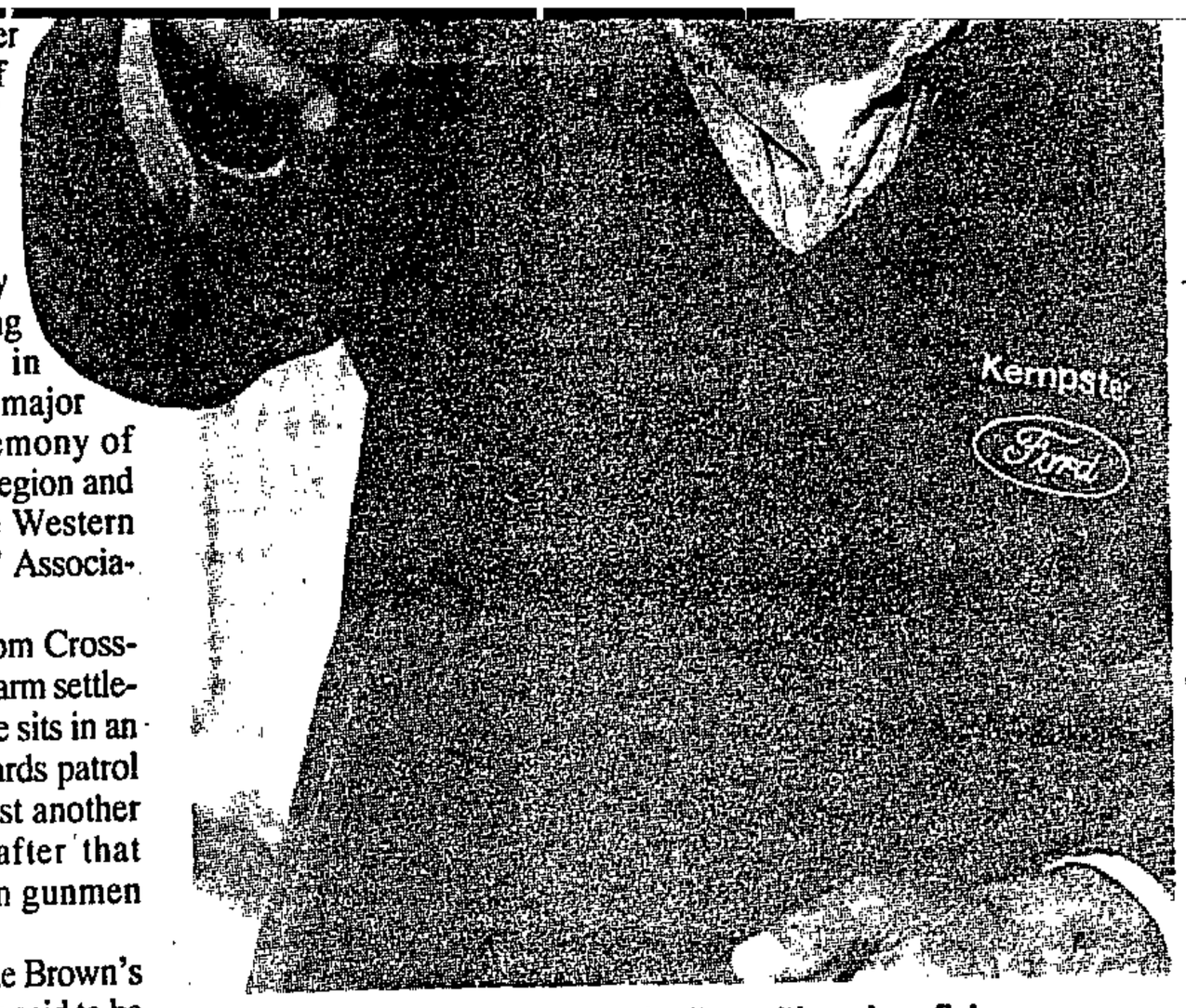
A few kilometres from Crossroads, in the Brown's Farm settlement, Christopher Toise sits in an office while armed guards patrol outside, vigilant against another attempt on his life after that launched by unknown gunmen earlier this month.

Toise, chairman of the Brown's Farm ANC branch, also said to be one of the largest in the region, faces mounting criticism from dissatisfied residents about his style of leadership, monthly collections of R2,50 from each shack, and headmen who allegedly confiscate residents' belongings and extort money for their return. A week ago, protesting residents burned their Wecusa cards and signed up with the South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco).

Both Toise and Nongwe, who deny the charges against them, claim they are targets in a power struggle launched by "certain organisations" and "people living outside" their areas, who they claim are exploiting residents' grievances for political gain.

Both chair ANC branches, but are accused of not holding meetings and devoting themselves instead to Wecusa, of which Nongwe is the head and Toise an executive member. Wecusa has long been at loggerheads with civic structures over its claim to the exclusive right to organise among shack dwellers.

Now, both Nongwe and Toise are having their political control challenged.



Jeffrey Nongwe ... Accused of ruling with an iron fist

Nongwe identifies his opponents as ANC activists based in brick-built houses in the settlement, the people he fought in 1991. It was agreed then Crossroads would have one ANC branch serving the built houses and another for shack dwellers — but the tensions remained.

Recent confusion about an upgrading scheme in Crossroads, with people claiming Nongwe was forcing them to move under threat of being shot or having their homes burned, fuelled discontent, offering fertile ground for those organising opposition to Nongwe.

Crossroads headman Amos Nhakatyha, who helped Nongwe oust Ngxobongwana, defected and is now organiser of the new South African Communist Party branch in the settlement. For Nhakatyha, this political leap was predicated on his own survival rather than ideological preference: he was losing the support of his own followers, who wanted to know where the money they handed over each month was going and why Nongwe was driving a new four-by-four vehicle when they knew he hadn't worked in years.

For Crossroads residents, the SACP branch provided an outlet for their grievances and the promise of protection.

Depoutch Elles, chairman of Crossroads' Buntubakhe ANC branch, whose aunt was among three people shot dead at his home last Friday, said: "Nongwe joined the ANC to boost his own position only. He blocks people from organising in the youth, women's league and other organisations, and is the cause of these deaths and burnings. He says he is ANC but holds no meetings, no report-backs on negotiations.

"The ANC must come with a firm position that Nongwe must be expelled because he's making the name of the ANC dirty," Elles said.

"Obviously we are not going to tolerate squatter leaders turning themselves into warlords," said ANC MP Jan van Eck. "But it's preferable that the community does this so that it is a natural process. The ANC needs to be guided by the community."

Van Eck sees it as the end of an era: no longer deemed illegal aliens, newly urbanised people no longer need to group themselves around a leader for protection and security of tenure.

"Many leaders became corrupted by the power they wielded," said Van Eck.

Challenged by their own people, who were "fed up with little dictators", such leaders were also facing a challenge from without — from organisations wanting to recruit and organise in their areas. "There is a groundswell in the squatter areas of people wanting to join civic and other progressive structures — be they ANC, SACP or Sanco."

He believes squatter leaders have been trying, through Wecusa, to fight a rearguard action to retain their power bases and source of income. "They are no longer serving their communities, but serving themselves. There are no democratic elections and they are not accountable," he said.

Both Toise and Nongwe are ANC leaders, but as Van Eck pointed out, for many squatter leaders joining an organisation has depended less on ideology and more on whether it could strengthen their position and give them access to resources which they could then bestow as patronage. Now that the leaders are no longer delivering, people feel it is time to take things into their own hands.

Court backs squatters against Sir Div's firm

(307) CT 26/3/73

By YVETTE VAN BREDA

A COMPANY of which former Leader of the Opposition Sir De Villiers Graaff is a director had its application to have 30 squatters and their families removed from land next to Bloubergrant dismissed by the Supreme Court.

Mr Justice J Foxcroft yesterday dismissed with costs an application by Milnerton Estates Ltd, seeking an order interdicting Mr Tyland Ndengane and 29 others from depriving it of "the possession and use" of the remainder of Erf 10099 in Milnerton.

It also wanted the squatters ejected from the property.

Mr John Loggie, property manager of the Graaff's Trust Ltd, which administers Milnerton Estates, said Table View and Bloubergrant were rapidly expanding and the logical route for expansion would be the land where the squatters were living.

Counsel for the squatters, Mr L Bozalek, argued the company had failed to prove the squatters' presence on the land was unlawful, there existed a tenancy in favour of the squatters entitling them to reasonable notice of termination, and they had permission from the company, from Mr J Theron, to remain on the land until they found alternative accommodation.

Mr Justice Foxcroft said: "If persons are told they may stay on another's land until receiving written notice of proceedings against them, then their remaining on that land before receiving written notice cannot entitle a landowner to interdict their removal."

Miss A Andrews of the Legal Resources Centre, who instructed Mr Bozalek, said the squatters had agreed to move to Du Noons near Killarney at the end of the year.

Times a'changing for squatters

(307) ARG 27/3/93

■ What are the underlying causes of conflict in Crossroads and Browns Farm? **JAN VAN ECK,** African National Congress MP for Claremont, who for the past eight years has been deeply involved in these two squatter communities, tries to give some of the answers

THOSE of us who have been involved in the Crossroads and Browns Farm communities for many, many years find the present conflict reason for deep sadness — yet there are also positive aspects that need to be highlighted.

The conflict in both communities and then specifically the seeming rebellion against strongmen Mr Jeffrey Nongwe (Crossroads) and Mr Christopher Toise (Browns Farm) is an indication that the old order in squatter communities is making way for a new order.

The old order — in which strong leaders emerged to rule the people living in what they declared to be "their" areas — grew from the days when large numbers of people arrived illegally from the homelands and were in dire need of protection from the authorities, a permanent place to live, the provision of basic services, etc.

It worked then because, at that time, it was the only viable system.

And, it needs to be stressed that this system achieved some significant successes for the squatter communities. Mr Toise was able to get the Browns Farmland for "his" people displaced from Old Crossroads in 1985/6, while Mr Nongwe was able to evict a much hated "mayor" of Crossroads, Mr Johnson Nxobongwana.

It needs to be stressed that the primary concerns of most squatter leaders were not politics but rather obtaining material benefits for "their" supporters.

Over the years the political affiliations of many squatter leaders changed from one year to another — not because they did not hold political views but because such views could not stand in the way of obtaining land, services, etc. This is why the squatter communities and their leaders — represented by the squatter umbrella body Wecusa (Western Cape United Squatter Association) — have always been courted by various state organisations, both overtly and covertly.

For some, the awesome power they were voluntarily given by their appreciative supporters was just too much and some started seeing "their" people as "their personal property", resulting in them forbidding any organisation — political, social or economic — from operating in "their" area without their permission.

This underlies the ongoing conflict between the more traditional Wecusa and the more progressive Civics, with Wecusa and various squatter leaders attempting to suppress the Civics. Today, for example, Sanco (SA National Civics Association) is barred from canvassing for members in the squatter areas.

Since February 1990, when the ANC and other progressive organisations were unbanned, the need for strong, traditionally empowered squatter leaders has increasingly fallen away. Squatters have been granted permanence, land, services, etc and other more broadly-based organisations can now equally — or even better — successfully represent their interests.

At the same time, the people living in these squatter areas, having now lived here for many years, have in increasing numbers outgrown their traditional pattern of doing things and find the idea of being ruled by a strongman with his own personal "fiefdoms" increasingly unacceptable.

So people have started to rebel openly against these squatter leaders. This trend will undoubtedly continue.

Those squatter leaders who have resisted moving with the times and have tried to cling to the old system, have with great anxiety and trepidation seen their whole power base, their source of status and income, being eroded before their eyes.

With South Africa moving towards democratic elections and multi-party democracy, increasing numbers of people living in squatter areas are going to align themselves with nationally-based political organisations who will represent and promote their interests.

The current spasms in squatter areas such as Crossroads and Browns Farm are the last twitches of a dying old order.

Plan to curb power of 'warlords'

SOUTH 27/3-31/3/93. (307)

By Quentin Wilson and Rehana Rossouw

THE ANC plans to limit the power of local squatter camp leaders.

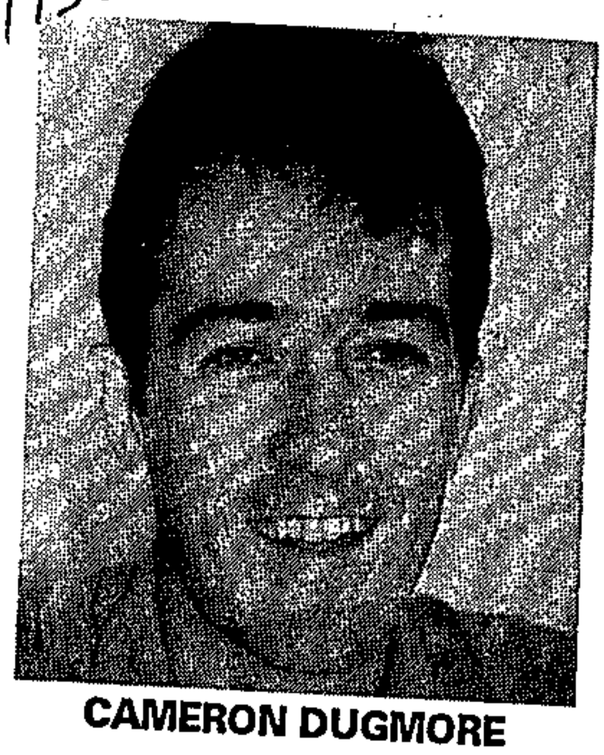
This follows recent show-downs between Crossroads ANC chairperson Mr Jeffrey Nongwe and Brown's Farm branch chairperson Mr Christopher Toise and their respective supporters.

Three people died, a number were injured and shacks were gutted as tensions rose between the squatters and their leaders.

The squatter leaders were branded "autocratic warlords" by Crossroads and Brown's Farm residents who expressed unhappiness with their leadership. They claim the two use their positions in the ANC to consolidate their personal power.

Although this is not the first time tensions between the squatter leaders and their members resulted in violence, the ANC was reluctant to take firm action against the two.

Two years ago, the ANC established a commission of inquiry when tensions between Nongwe and the ANC Youth and Womens' League led to violence.



CAMERON DUGMORE

Although residents asked the commission to consider splitting the Crossroads ANC branch into smaller branches, no action was taken following the commission's report.

Now the ANC is considering limiting Nongwe's control over the 3 000 ANC members in Crossroads by breaking up the branch into smaller units.

"The ANC national and regional offices launched a programme whereby all branches with high membership have to be broken down into smaller, more manageable units," said ANC organiser Mr Cameron Dugmore.

"By doing this, new levels of leadership would be developed and more members would be able to get involved in the running of the branch," Dugmore said.

The ability to call regular meetings was limited by the size of the Crossroads branch. ANC members in the camp said Nongwe was completely unaccountable to the them.

The ANC plans to hold educational programmes to teach residents how to establish democratic practices in their branches.

"A political education drive is planned to keep people active in politics and to show them that it is not necessary to resort to violence to solve problems," said ANC Western Cape vice-chairperson Mr Lerumo Kalako.

mitted to the Deputy Minister (to whom the authority has been granted) who takes a decision on the application. This procedure is followed in all cases, including Pretoria.

(2) Although no specific procedure for consulting the public is prescribed in the Act, the above-mentioned procedure is in most cases preceded by a wide and inclusive consultation process, which can include, amongst others the holding of public meetings where all interested parties can make their point.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Document sent to Chief of Army

*9. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether, with reference to certain information and a copy of a certain document which have been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, a certain handwritten document was sent to the Chief of the Army; if so, (a) by whom was it signed and (b) what was the response of the Chief of the Army to this communication;

(2) whether this document was discussed by the State Security Council or its Secretariat;

(3) whether a certain professor was consulted on the plan set out in this document; if so, why;

(4) whether this professor was a member of or served as an adviser to any committee, subcommittee or body forming part of the State Security Council network at that time? B566E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) to (4). The hon member is referred to the State President's reply to an unprepared question of the hon member for Alra Park on 24 March 1993. The inquest in this regard is in process and therefore I am not prepared to reply to any questions concerning the matter at this stage.

Informal settlements: schools

*10. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training:

(1) Whether any schools were provided by his Department in informal settlement areas in 1992; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many and (b) in which areas;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B568E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

(1) Yes.

(a) Twelve

(b) Daveyton, Benoni
Kwa-Guqa, Witbank
Embalenhle, Secunda
Kathlehong, Alberton
Khayelitsha, Wynberg (two schools)
Philippi, Wynberg
Orange Farm, Vanderbijlpark (two schools)
Kutlwanong, Odendaalsrus
Meqheleng, Ficksburg
Thabong, Welkom.

(2) At the eleven primary schools and the one secondary school which have been provided, there are 253 classrooms for primary pupils and twenty for secondary pupils.

SADTU/NAPTOSA: recognition

*11. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) Whether, with reference to the reply to Question No 4 on 19 February 1992, he has given consideration to recognizing the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) and the National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (NAPTOSA) for the purposes of negotiation on education; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether these bodies have been so recognized; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) under what conditions and (c) what number of teachers is represented by each;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B569E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(a) NAPTOSA was recognised in May 1992.
SADTU was recognised in November 1992.

(b) Recognition, in terms of Section 1 of the National Policy for General Education Affairs Act, 1984 (Act No 76 of 1984), is granted with the concurrence of the Ministers of departments of State responsible for education. This concurrence has, in some cases, been preceded by agreements which may contain conditions between these teachers' organisations and the education departments. In considering recognition, I took cognizance of the need for the organisation to represent a substantial number of educators employed by the State and that the organisation has a constitution that can ensure that it is correctly managed and is able to serve the best interests of its members.

(c) NAPTOSA represents approximately 116 500 teachers.
Final, verified membership figures for SADTU are not yet available. However, SADTU claims a membership of 60 000.

(3) No.

Philippi: murders/assaults

*12. Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was in any way implicated or referred to in any (a) inquests and/or (b) criminal proceedings relating to (i) deaths, (ii) assaults and/or (iii) the use of firearms in the Philippi area during the period 1 January 1980 to 31 March 1993; if so, what are the relevant details? B571E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a), (b) (i–iii) Yes.

On 15 February 1989, Mr Bock shot and killed a man who was stealing vegetables on his farm with a shotgun. An inquest found that no person was responsible for the death of the man, because Mr Bock was protecting himself and his property.

On 2 November 1992, Mr Bock caught a man who was stealing potatoes on his farm. The man ran away, whereupon Mr Bock wounded him with a firearm. The person was charged and found guilty of attempted theft.

On 21 February 1993, Mr Bock, after noticing that potatoes were being stolen from his farm, lay in wait for the suspected thieves, and caught them redhanded whilst they were stealing potatoes. He approached and warned them, whereupon they ran away. He fired a shot at each of them and killed two men and wounded another two. A murder docket is currently with the Attorney-General for a decision. Mr Bock's firearm was seized and referred for ballistic investigation. A case of attempted theft is being investigated against the two wounded suspects.

Note:

Details of cases which occurred before 1989 are not available, as records in this regard have, according to instructions, already been destroyed.

Transnet: accommodation in Transnet Park

*13. Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister of Public Enterprises:

What was the occupancy cost to Transnet of accommodation leased at Transnet Park as at the latest date for which figures are available? B572E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

The Managing Director or Transnet Limited has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question:

The rent for February 1993 amounted to R467 913.

RSA mercenaries in Angola

*14. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether the Government has taken or

cont'd

Squatters: Table View boycott

(307)

By ANDRÉ KOOPMAN

TABLE VIEW residents opposed to the Dunoon squatter settlement decided last night to stop paying rates until the municipality halted plans for the proposed development.

At a meeting in the Leibrandt van Niekerk Hall, which was packed, residents by a unanimous show of hands resolved to stop paying their rates until the plan to develop "less formal" housing along the N7 near Table View was halted. They also resolved to march on the council offices at the next council meeting. CT 1/4/93

The meeting, organised by the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot), decided to ask the municipality to conduct a poll on the issue and also to pass a motion of no confidence in the council if the matter was not satisfactorily resolved.

It this was done the council would be asked to resign and municipal elections would be held at which each candidate would be asked to indicate their position on the settlement.

The meeting was told that Cravot had circulated more than 12 000 leaflets on the issue, to which 4 000 households had replied. About 98% indicated they were against Marconi Beam squatters moving to Dunoon.

PRG 1/4/93 (307)

Anti-squatter march planned

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Staff Reporter

THE newly formed Concerned Ratepayers and Voters Association of Table View (Cravot), whose members are vigorously opposed to the relocation of squatters on De Noon farm near Table View, are planning a mass protest march to the municipal offices.

At a well-supported first public meeting of the association in the Leibrandt van Niekerk hall which attracted more than 1 200 people last night, the chairman, Mr Danie van den Heever, categorically denied a rumour that Cravot was a rightwing association.

The proposal of a protest march was accepted by the entire audience as a bid to gain involvement in the decision-making process by the council in matters that affected home owners directly.

All five ratepayers' associations in the Milnerton municipal area were opposed to the relocation, but ignored by the council, according to Mr Van den Heever.

He said the new association had been born out of the need to address the threatening squatter problem and had no political slant. Cravot existed to serve the needs of all ratepayers in Table View irrespective of creed or colour.

Yesterday's meeting was called to assess the ratepayers' attitude towards the proposed informal residential area for the homeless and unemployed on De Noon farm, on Potsdam Road about 3km from Table View.

A surprisingly large number of property owners turned up and the meeting had to be moved to a bigger hall in the complex.

Another course of action proposed was redirecting rate payments into a ratepayers' trust account.

Capital punishment relies on not seeing the victims as people, says **Etienne Murein**

Star 13/4/93

Racism's iniquitous relative

WHEN it set about reforming capital punishment in 1990, the Government imposed a moratorium on executions. A year later, after completing various procedures, it announced its readiness to resume hangings.

By then, however, the legitimacy of capital punishment had become an issue in the constitutional process, and there was a wave of protest. The Government seemed to accept that it would be wrong to pre-empt the constitutional process by reopening the gallows.

Announcing an extension of the moratorium, the Minister of Justice undertook that, although death sentences would continue to be passed, they would "not be carried out pending the outcome of negotiations on an interim Bill of Fundamental Rights".

The iniquity of executing people who might emerge from the constitution-making process with an entrenched right to live was plainly not then lost on the Government.

Since then, Inkatha has joined the ANC in proposing that capital punishment be outlawed by the constitution, and the election of the constituent assembly, which will decide the question, is apparently only a matter of months away.

The constitutionality of capital punishment is therefore an even livelier issue now than it was when the Government agreed to maintain the moratorium.

Why, then, is the Government indifferent now to the iniquity of killing people the entrenchment of whose right to live may be imminent? Why so keen now to restore the hangman?

The Government implies that the tide of violent crime calls for a more effective deterrent than imprisonment. But the case has simply not been made that the death sentence is more effective.

No one doubts that the fear of hanging deters crime. But lifetime imprisonment is an awful punishment, and it deters crime too. No one has yet proved that the death sentence does the job better.

In the choice between the two, therefore, it must surely be a decisive consideration that the one permits the effect of an erroneous conviction to be reversed, and the other does not.

Nor should we underestimate the probability that some who might be hanged are entirely innocent. The most respected courts in the world have made mistakes.

And our courts' heavy reliance upon translated evidence, and upon confessions, which are easy to coerce and hard to prove coerced, multiplies the likelihood of mistakes.

All of which weakens even further the case for the immediate execution of people who might be saved by a considered determination, in the constituent assembly, of the constitutional controversy over capital punishment.

In that controversy, three major positions have emerged. The ANC and Inkatha want to make executions unconstitutional.

The Government seeks, as an exception to the right to life that its draft Charter of Fundamental Rights appears to affirm, to preserve Parliament's power to authorise capital punishment.

The Law Commission is somewhere in the uncommitted middle. It affirms the right to life, but it would permit the legislature to "circumscribe" the right if that is "reasonably necessary for considerations of state security, the public order and interest, good morals, public health, the administration of justice, public administration, or the rights of others or for the prevention or combating of disorder and crime".

This is a promiscuously generous menu of excuses for ignoring a right that the commission professes to consider fundamental.

The practical effect of this "Solomonic solution", as the commission so modestly describes it, would be to empower the constitutional court to settle the status of the death penalty on no more substantial a ground than that it likes it or dislikes it.

The latitude to be given the court is so ample, and guided so loosely by principle, as to make the decision hardly more than a matter of the judges' personal pleasure.

It is surely far better to face the question of principle: is the death penalty compatible with our reasons for wanting a new Constitution?

The principal reason for a new Constitution is to create the conditions essential for democracy.

The plainest challenge facing South African constitution-makers trying to do that is how to counter racism, which in this country has been democracy's nemesis.

Racism says that some people are not entitled to the treatment that the racists claim for themselves, in virtue of their own humanity, as their natural due. Racism says that some people are not entitled to vote; to live where their communities have been settled for generations; to the kind of schooling and hospital care that, for themselves, the racists take for granted.

In the minds of the racists, there can be only one justification for these iniquities: that their victims do not belong in the category of full humankind.

That makes racism share something profoundly important with capital punishment. It is impossible thoughtfully and deliberately — judicially — to condemn a person to die unless you perceive him or her to be less than fully a person. So racism and capital punishment both depend upon denying the personhood of people. Each, moreover, breeds the disdain for humanity that fosters the other.

Our race laws bred the kind of contempt for the humanness of people that made it thinkable to hang 164 human beings in a single year. And systematic State killing fosters the contempt for people that reinforces racial prejudice.

Democracy cannot flourish in South Africa unless racism is eradicated.

To achieve that, the Constitution has to root out all racism's supportive cousins. The death penalty, because it fosters the disdain for the humanity of people upon which racism rests, is conspicuously such a cousin.

The case for inaugurating our new democracy by forswearing an official death machine, and affirming the full humanity of every South African, is a powerful one.

The constituent assembly will give South Africa its first opportunity reflectively to consider that case in a representative forum.

How can it possibly be right to determine the mortal fate of the hundreds of humans on Death Row before we have settled this question? □

Etienne Mureinik is Professor of Law at Wits University.

Botswana meeting ● Five held over Vaal killings

ANC man shelters at police station

THE African National Congress chairman of Brown's Farm squatter camp in Philippi, Cape Town, has sought refuge at a police station.

Mr Christopher Toise was detained and held for questioning on Sunday in connection with illegal firearms but was later released. Sowetan 7/4/93.

Toise and about 60 of his supporters have since fled the farm and have been camping out on the grounds of the Nyanga police station after an attack on their homes by

■ **Squatter camp leader and supporters flee their homes after attack:** (4)

their opponents on Sunday night. The attackers have accused Toise of "dictatorship". (2B)

In another happening at Brown's Farm, a man was yesterday found stoned to death. Police said the body of a man in his late 20s was found almost buried in stones, his skull crushed by a large rock. — *Sapa.* (307)

Boost for Cape Flats

R500m plan for squatters

A R500-MILLION development pac[illegible]ge for Cape To[illegible] squatters was unveiled yesterday.

The multi-million rand package lays the foundations for the eventual housing of 200 000 people on the Cape Flats.

Addressing Parliament yesterday, MEC in charge of community services, Mr Dawie Le Roux, said 950ha of land had been identified for the settlement of 36 000 families — more than 200 000 people — who did not have any access to services.

The land fell in Crossroads, Driftsands, Brown's Farm and Philippi East.

Also yesterday, the cabinet gave the green light to the formation of a Community Land Trust to re-develop District Six — 30 years after its inhabitants were forcibly removed.

The step could finally lay to rest the Nationalist government's most controversial Group Areas Act enforcement, authorised at the time by Mr P W Botha.

The Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, announced in Parliament yesterday that a decision had been taken to launch the trust, which would take possession of the land and set over-arching development guidelines.

Giving more details on the Cape Flats package, Mr Le Roux said it was the culmination of two years of negotiations between the government and community groups including Sanco, squatter organisations, the ANC and municipalities.

The Serviced Land Project was a joint venture with the communities, he said during the debate in the Joint Committee on Provincial Affairs for the Cape.

Mr Le Roux told the Cape Times last night the government could not afford the total expenditure over five years and monies would be drawn from other parties.

He said the Development Bank of Southern Africa had made inquiries about the project.

"It is important to note that this project is aimed only at existing communities already in the Cape Flats. It does not cater for any influx or population growth and consequently is absolutely essential if a realistic view is taken on urbanisation."

Development consultant and co-ordinator in the project Mr Colin Appleton said the initial site and service scheme would be a first stage in the development of communities.

Unlike previous site and service schemes there would be "encouragement" for the communities to develop community institutions and housing.

Concerning District Six, Mr Meiring said a non-profit company would be responsible for the development project, while a third independent body would handle the allocation of housing units.

Speaking at the conclusion of the debate on the Cape budget, Mr Meiring said that the cabinet had decided to take a pro-active stance towards the redevelopment of District Six.

He said a decision had already been taken on a structure to re-develop the area, but agreement had not yet been reached on how the structure would be comprised and how it would operate. — Political Staff and Staff Reporter

A MAN OF ACTION



— PAGE 2



CLOWNING AROUND ... Keeping the funny business in the family are mother and son clown duo, Mife and Marcello Di Lello. The two are entertaining crowds at the Boswell Wilkie Circus, which has set up its tent on the Grand Parade. Picture: ANNE LAING

CT 8/4/93

A fight for land, money and power

South 10/4 - 14/4/93. (307)

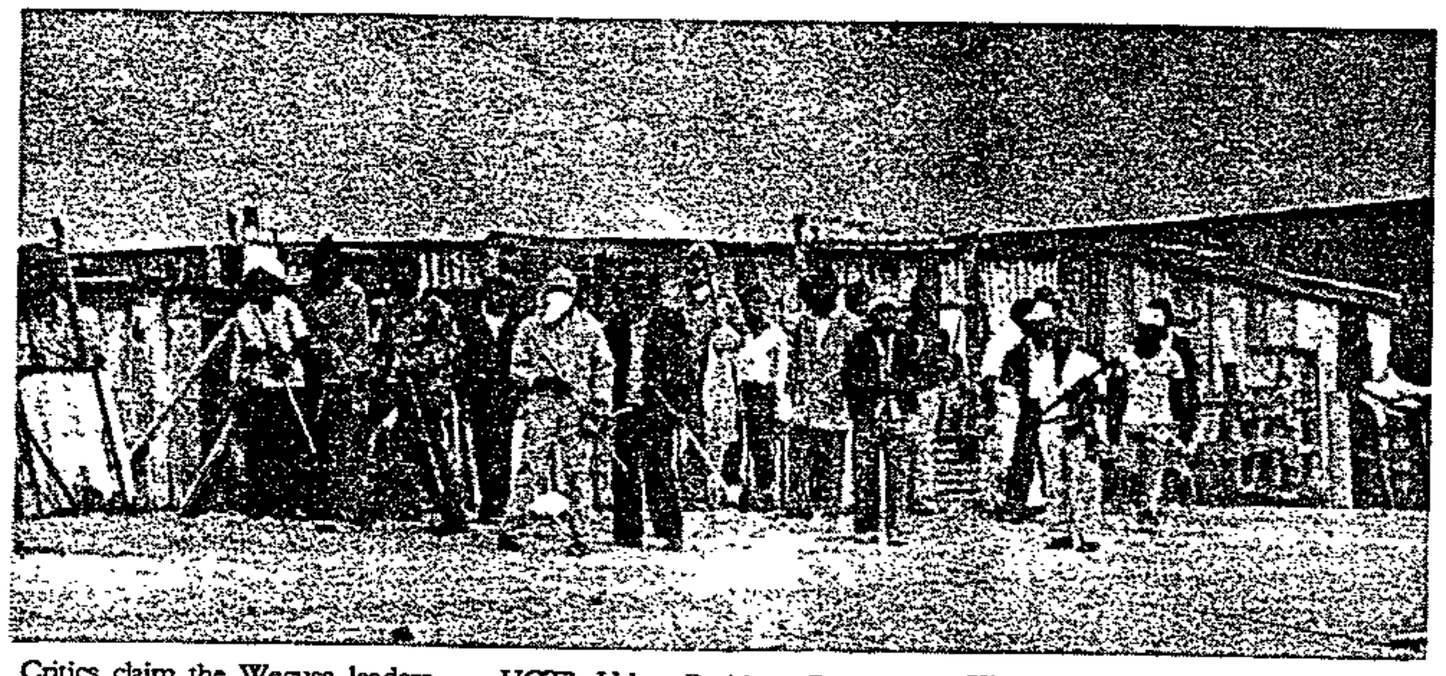
Rivalry between civic and squatter leaders lies at the heart of recent conflict in squatter areas, reports **Chiara Carter**:



NONGWE



TOISE



BEHIND the recent flare-up of violence in the squatter camps of Crossroads and Brown's Farm lies a power struggle between squatter leaders who owe allegiance to the Western Cape United Squatters' Association (Wecusa) and supporters aligned to the South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco).

The tensions affect thousands of people and hold serious implications not only for the ANC, which is supported by both groups, but for future urban development.

According to the Human Sciences Research Council, Cape Town is the fastest growing metropolitan area in the country with about 7 000 new arrivals a week.

While most of the residents in the squatter areas owe allegiance to the ANC, power is wielded by the squatter lords who are locked into conflicts with the civics.

Men like former Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, his rival, Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, Brown's Farm leader Mr Christopher Toise and Khayelitsha leader Mr Jerry Tutu are well-known figures.

Others, like Mr Conrad Sandile, credited as being the brains behind the Western Cape Squatters' Association (Wecusa), and KTC leader Mr Gladstone Ntamo are not as well-known but equally powerful.

Essentially, the clash centres on different styles of organisation. Power in the populated squatter areas is wielded by the lords who rule with the help of headmen and a cabinet-type committee.

They have the backing of private armies which include 'kitskonstables'. Residents pay dues to the leaders who run the camp's daily affairs, administer law and order and manage development.

Critics claim the Wecusa leaders are autocrats who rule with an "iron fist". According to residents and field workers, the system is often subverted by a group of male leaders grown affluent and powerful at the expense of the residents.

Allegiances shift and fallouts and coups are common in the harsh world of squatter politics but power rests on the allocation of land, the collection of dues and ultimately the use of force against dissidents.

UCT's Urban Problems Research Unit (Upru) in a research report on migration in Khayelitsha commented that some squatter leaders "gain control over the land allocation process and use it to achieve political patronage and financial enrichment.

It is usually when dissatisfaction spills over into violence that allegations of corruption surface. This was the case in the repeated battles against Ngxobongwana in Crossroads and Mr Mali Hoza in Khayelitsha.

At stake is political power and huge sums of money.

Many feel that it is the allocation of land that needs to be tackled. Says the Upru report: "The key is to make the allocation process an immediate and clear transaction with an individual houshold".

Rival centres of power are not welcome. Both the youth and women's leagues were outlawed in Crossroads where conflict in 1991 led to the formation of a rival ANC branch in a section of Unathi.

More recently, opponents to Nongwe's rule in Crossroads have turned to a recently established SACP branch for help. In Brown's Farm, opponents of Toise have flocked to Sanco.

The heart of the conflict between Wecusa and Sanco is Wecusa's view that the squatter camps are its exclusive territory. The organisation has repeatedly said it should be responsible for shacks and the civics should stick to bricks.

Wecusa, launched in February, 1989, has succeeded in bringing together many squatter leaders, including staunch ANC supporters and community councillors.

The launch of Sanco in the Western Cape was preceeded by conflict between civic leaders, who were backed by the Hostel Dwellers' Association, and Wecusa, which eventually pulled out of the unity process.

At civic unity talks in Guguletu in February 1991, Wecusa tabled a document filled with incriminating allegations against the WCCA. It also hinted at a lack of confidence in local ANC leaders.

So seriously did the ANC view the conflict that NEC member Mr Steve Tshwete was sent to intervene and a probe into the Crossroads conflict was launched.

Now the conflict has again erupted and the ANC, with Dispute Resolution Committee officials, has been negotiating for peace.

Recent developments have shown that no party can be excluded from the equation in squatter areas.

Observers like ANC MP Mr Jan van Eck feel that the squatter lords' style of government has had its day and will be replaced by a new and more democratic style of management.

A fight for land, money and power

South 10/4 - 14/4/93. (307)

Rivalry between civic and squatter leaders lies at the heart of recent conflict in squatter areas, reports **Chiara Carter**:

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NONGWE



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So seriously did the ANC vie the conflict that NEC member M Steve Tshwete was sent to interver and a probe into the Crossroac conflict was launched.

Now the conflict has again erup ed and the ANC, with Dispu Resolution Committee officials, h been negotiating for peace.

Recent developments have show that no party can be excluded fro the equation in squatter areas.

Observers like ANC MP Mr J van Eck feel that the squatter lord style of government has had its d and will be replaced by a new ar more democratic style of manag

Man found stoned to death

South 10/4 - 14/4/93 (307)

The discovery of two bodies in two days in Browns Farm squatter camp has raised fears that violence is on the verge of breaking out again:

By Edwina Booysen

VIOLENCE at the Browns Farm squatter camp took a horrific turn this week when a man was stoned to death.

The body of Mr Sazola Mati was found at the squatter camp on Monday night.

With the four-day Easter holiday at hand, peace in Crossroads and Browns Farm is on a knife-edge with fears of an upsurge in violence.

Mati was found under mound of stones. His skull had been crushed by a large rock.

A police officer, who had been at the scene, said the rock was lying next to Mati's head and smaller rocks were lying around his body.

Attempts to discover more about the reasons behind the attack or Mati's allegiance in the feud between residents and Browns Farm squatter leader Mr Christopher Toise were unsuccessful.

Residents in the tense squatter camp either said they knew nothing about the stoning or refused to speak to reporters. It is believed Mati was aligned to Toise, but this could not be confirmed.

On Tuesday morning the body of another man who had been stabbed to death was found lying among bushes near Browns Farm. The man has not yet been identified.

Toise, who is chairman of the Browns Farm ANC branch, was detained and held for questioning on Sunday in connection with possessing illegal firearms, but was later released.

He and a few supporters have fled Browns Farmto camp in the grounds of Nyanga's police station.

Police spokesperson, Colonel Raymond Dowd, said they asked for protection after an attack in which a man was killed, two others wounded and eight shacks burned.

Residents long for end to violence

South 10/4 - 14/4/93. (307)

By Sabata Ngcai and Quentin Wilson

CAPE Town squatters are desperate for peace, but are unsure whether any present initiatives can end the violence they face daily.

Residents interviewed by SOUTH in the past weeks scoff at the effectiveness of peace initiatives.

Many are convinced it will take more than talks to root out the violence.

In a random survey, 36 out of 41 people had never heard of the Peace Accord, and the majority was pessimistic about peace.

Crossroads resident Mr Zolile Ndinisa expressed the mood of the residents:

"The day after the Peace Accord was signed, police shot through the window of my house.

"Last month, my aunt was killed in political violence. It is impossible to find hope from the peace accord."

Ndinisa believed dispute resolution committees "were just a forum for arguing" and had no power to stop the perpetrators of violence.

"We need action in Crossroads, not just talk. There are people here who are responsible for violence but who get away with it," he said.

"I believe the peace committees would stand a better chance if they had more power.

"If the people responsible are put behind bars, then I would be happy. Something has got to be done."

Mr Andile Burwana of Crossroads believed the only way to end the violence was to curb the power of the squatter leaders who wanted "to build their own power base".

"Each squatter leader is trying to get people under his jurisdiction so that they could be exploited."

Burwana said the violence in Browns Farm would only end when the "forced recruitment" of squatters was ended.

"As long as repression reigns there can never be peace," he said.

ANC member Mr Amos Nyakatyha of Crossroads said the Peace Accord was bringing peace.

"The dispute resolution committee is working hard to solve the problems in Crossroads and I am sure they will be resolved," Nyhakatyha said.

"They have solved many problems in the area."

Nyakatyha's house was burned down last month.

• See article, page 7

Rietvlei pollution risk from squatters

307
ARG 17/4/93

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter

■ There are growing fears that a decision by Milnerton municipality to settle more than 2 000 squatter families at Du Noon, north of Table View, could cause pollution damage that could destroy the Rietvlei estuary.

PLANS to establish an informal settlement at Du Noon should be postponed for at least six months to save the sensitive ecology of Rietvlei.

Dr Alan Heydorn, specialist consultant to the South African Nature Foundation, said this in calling for time to allow the CSIR to complete a management plan for Rietvlei.

He added that a comprehensive environmental assessment was necessary to establish the effect of the proposed settlement of more than 2 000 families from the Marconi Beam squatter camp.

"Currently the Rietvlei area is in a relatively healthy state. It is true that the increase in nutrients in the water has led to an increase in reeds in the vlei," he said.

The reeds help to keep the level of nutrients down — and too high a level of nutrients could lead to growth of oxygen-consuming organisms which, if allowed to increase unchecked, would make the vlei waters sterile.

Dr Heydorn said up to now the clean water of the Diep River had helped to flush the vlei system clean. But if nutrients from proposed storm water outlets from the Du Noon settlement were allowed to flow into the river as planned, the ecological system of the vlei could be endangered.

There was also a health hazard. The vlei was used by thousands for recreation. Already, treated water from the Milnerton sewerage farm was pumped into the vlei, along with industrial effluent from Montague Gardens. If effluent from Du Noon were added, the water quality could become a problem.

Dr Heydorn told of moves by the SA Nature Foundation, the Wildlife Society, the Cape Nature Conservation and several other bodies to procure land near the vlei for a wetland reserve.

Mr Rob Reeve, for Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot), said that up to now no comprehensive environmental impact study had been done by Milnerton municipality.

"We find it incredibly irresponsible that this has not been done. After all the vlei is the natural heritage of all the peoples of Cape Town and should be protected as such.

"The municipality says the Du Noon settlement will house only about 2 000 families and that each plot will be serviced. How naive can they really be? There is no doubt in our minds that if they go ahead with these plans in 10 years we will have a squatter settlement with hundreds of thousands of people.

"And what will the impact on the vlei be then? The truth is that Milnerton municipality is under pressure from a small group of wealthy people who live next to the Marconi Beam camp and want these people moved from their doorstep.

"It would be a tragic to give in to the demands of a small group of people to move the squatters a couple of kilometres up the road and in doing so eventually destroy the sensitive ecological area of Rietvlei."

■ Mr David Brook, Milnerton's town engineer, said no comprehensive environmental impact study had been undertaken to establish the impact of the Du Noon settlement on Rietvlei.

Squatters dispersed

(307)

CT 19/7/93

Crime Reporter

POLICE used tear-smoke to disperse a crowd that allegedly had been stoning a bread delivery van in the Wallacedene squatter camp in Kraaifontein yesterday.

Police on patrol fired tearsmoke after spotting the crowd that had gathered around the van about 10am.

The vehicle was not damaged and no one was injured. No arrests had been made, police said.

Squatter land ruined

(367) CT 20/4/93

Health and ecology threat

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

SQUATTER families who were recently moved to the site and service scheme bordering Ocean View are desperate and ecologists irate after the recent heavy rains left the land almost uninhabitable.

Deep furrows have been carved into the steeply sloping land, newly built roads collapsed, water pipes exposed and the squatters homes badly damaged.

The silt trap in the stormwater drain system blocked up completely after vast amounts of topsoil — which according to one expert amounts to hundreds of tons — spilled into the Wildevoel Vlei.

Mr Andy Gubb, of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, described the situation as "horrific".

"The suspended solids now in the vlei," he said, "will remain suspended for a long time having an inevitable negative impact on the chlorphyl levels in the water vegetation and on the organisms living there.

"The surface of the site falls on soils which are not well constructed and should have been consolidated. It's quite clear that they would come down in heavy rains.

"Now that there is no topsoil left, how will the residents develop gardens? They also want a quality environment but nothing will grow there."

On visiting the area, the Review was greeted by several families desperately trying to dry out their sodden homes. The ground — which is largely clay — was soft to depths of one metre. Some people's homes had been filled to waist level with silt.

Some of the cement toilets had been left with virtually no soil to keep them upright.

Mr Wally Petersen, of the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group; was on site planting grass — "begged and borrowed" from Kommetjie residents — and attempting to stabilise the upper slopes while surveyers were mapping out the contours.

"We next hope to lay sandbags along the contours to detour the water into the roads which are supposed to form part of the drainage system," he said.

Mr Petersen, who is in charge of the group's greening project in the area, said their resources are so limited that at present they could only tackle the higher reaches of the land. He said the main underground stormwater outlet was completely blocked up with sand for about 100m.

Attempts were being made to have the authorities bring the topsoil that had been cleared off the Kommetjie main road after the storm back up onto the site.

The 32 squatter families, who had squatted in Ocean View for years before the development began, moved to the site just over a month ago. The rest of the R5,24m development, which is being financed by the Independent Development Trust and implemented by Cape Utility Homes and a local planning forum known as the Ocean View Development Trust, has been allocated to people who learn less than R1 000 per month.

Some of these people have begun building their brick homes on the site but all agree that the area is almost uninhabitable in its present state. Some worried parents have send their small children — one a TB sufferer — to stay with relatives elsewhere as their health had deteriorated from the continual dampness.

Mr Alistair Sempell, of Cape Utility Homes, said last week that steps were being taken to avoid a recurrence of the "unfortunate" situation.

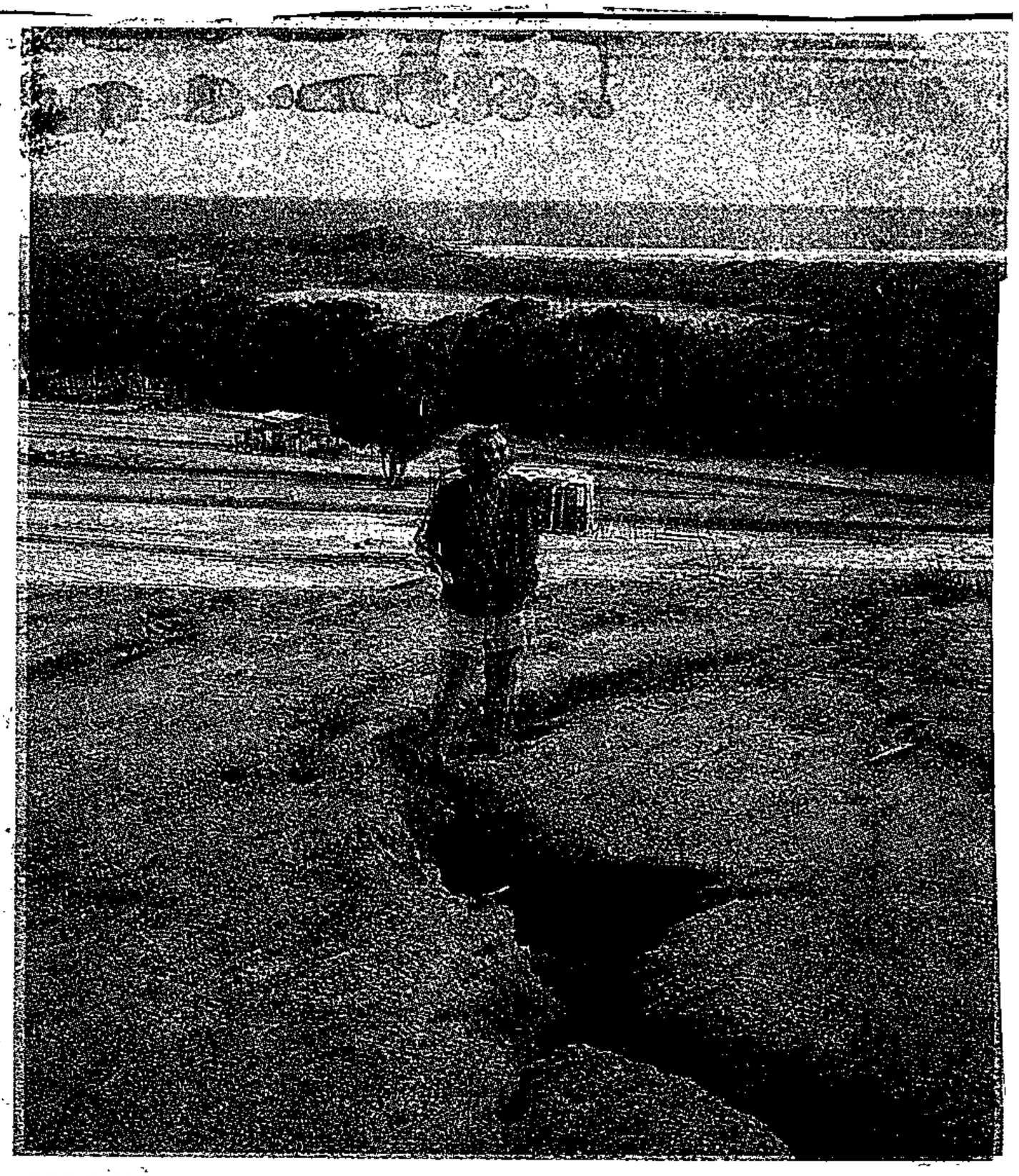
Explaining why the entire site had been completely cleared of vegetation, he said that first trees in the way of the roads had been removed "selectively".

"During the second phase, because the individual sites were so small it was impossible to work selectively on one site," he said.

"Also the heavy machinery flattened trees."

He stressed there had been no indigenous vegetation on the site.

The site has apparently been handed over to the Regional Services Council which to date has not responded to queries from the Review.



ECOLOGICAL DISASTER... Mr Wally Petersen of Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group, stands in one of the dongas caused by erosion on the site and service scheme's land in Ocean View.

Picture: CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

Du Noon is now official

307

CT 24/4/93

Staff Reporter

CAPE ADMINISTRATOR Mr Kobus Meiring yesterday officially declared the Du Noon area next to the N7 an informal settlement area.

The announcement, which appeared in yesterday's Provincial Gazette, follows months of controversy about the Milnerton municipality's decision to settle more than 2 000 squatter families at Du Noon.

In recent reports a group called the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot) vowed to stop the planned settlement.

Cravot chairman Mr Danie van der Heever said last night that all residents in the Milnerton area were opposed to the area being declared a "less formal settlement".

APE

Platteland drift to Cape Town reaching 400 daily

(307) ARG 21/4/93

Municipal Reporter

UP to 400 people a day are moving from rural areas to metropolitan Cape Town, according to city councillor Mr Neil Ross.

Urbanisation was a challenge to which a solution had to be found, he told the Cape Province Municipal Association congress.

But he rejected a call by the Elliot Town Council that powers be given to councils to set limits on how many people were allowed in a town.

The eastern Cape council told the association that the water and sewerage infrastructure of small towns could not cope with the influx of people.

"I sympathise with the problems of Elliot, but the only country which practises influx control is mainland China — hardly the example we want to follow," said Mr Ross.

People were streaming to towns because of the terrible poverty of rural areas.

This did not apply only to small towns, because Cape Town had become one of the fastest growing metropoles in the world.

Beaufort West deputy-mayor Mr H B de Wit challenged Mr Ross's statement about poverty in rural areas.

Recent TV programmes had given a false impression, Mr De Wit said.

5 000 objection letters on Du Noon township plan

ARG 21/4/93

NORMAN JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

307

TABLE VIEW residents have handed more than 5 000 letters to Milnerton municipality objecting to the proposed informal township at Du Noon next to the N7.

Members of the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot) handed the 5 221 letters of objection to municipal officials yesterday.

In addition, a Table View resident, Mrs Annelise Kruger-Liptrot, handed over an open letter, addressed to the mayor, to Mr Kobus Olivier of the municipality's Law Enforcement Department.

Cravot chairman Mr Danie van der Heever said the letters were a response from households in Table View to the Du Noon plans.

"These letters contain strong remarks from members of the Western Cape Cultural Union, the head of the Department of Nature Conservation and members of the National Party living in the area," he said.

Mrs Kruger-Liptrot said squatters on Du Noon would cause "irreparable damage to the Diep River and Rietvlei nature areas".

Details in the open letter said residents were under the impression Du Noon would be a suburb and not an area for squatters.

simply go and read his documents, then he will be better informed. He is the CP's chief negotiator.

I want to tell the hon member for Randfontein that there was no sitting of the Negotiating Council last Friday. I therefore do not know what he is referring to. [Interjections.]

What is at issue in this interpellation, is when we are going to move forward in relation to the transitional process. Unlike the CP, it is the stated standpoint of the Government and the NP that we wish to move as quickly as possible towards a state of stability in South Africa. This party is a new source of concern in the negotiation process.

The hon member for Soutpansberg stood up any number of times during the first sitting of the Negotiating Council and told us that we should excuse him, he did not know the procedure, because he was still a newcomer there. [Interjections.] He told us that any number of times. He had only just joined in the process . . . [Interjections.]

*An HON MEMBER: But he is learning fast.

*The MINISTER: It is not even very fast.

The fact of the matter is that we have to determine what we must achieve in order to bring about progress in relation to the transitional steps. Firstly, we must reach a final agreement on the wording of the constitutional principles. These have already been drafted and came before the council last week already. The intention is finally to dispose of them at the next meeting on 15 June.

Secondly, we must gain clarity on the constitutional framework. This means that we must in fact decide what the content of the transitional constitution on which the following step is based, will look like.

Thirdly, we must gain clarity and reach agreement on the constitution-drafting process.

My submission is as follows. Substantial progress has already been made in regard to all three of these matters. Considerable progress in relation to the negotiations thus far has been registered. We are therefore now ready to give consideration in the Negotiating Council to the executive transitional council. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

Township at Du Noon: steps/funds

*2. Adv C H PIENAAR asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether the Government has taken or intends taking any steps with regard to the establishment of an informal township at Du Noon; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(2) whether any State funds have been spent on the establishment of this township to date; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what amount up to the latest specified date for which figures are available?

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*The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, the reply to the hon member for Heilbron's question is the following. The Government has taken note of the establishment of an informal township at Du Noon and of the serious representations, objections and fears of established communities.

However, the Government is satisfied that this decision falls within the policy guidelines of the Cabinet Resolution, which was approved during September and October 1991, in the light of the increasing need for land for purposes of low-cost settlement in the Cape Town metropolitan area.

The Government has moreover taken cognisance that an amount of R9,257 million from the National Housing Fund has already been complemented and that all the land has already been purchased or expropriated, with occupation on 1 July 1993.

I should like to make the following statement. This decision was not taken in a haphazard manner. Investigations by consultants preceded the 1991 Cabinet decision. In order to position work and residential areas as close to one another as possible, the decision was taken to deal with low-income settlement in a more dispersed fashion. I want to refer the hon member to the press statement dated 17 October 1991, which contains full particulars, in which an area to the north of Milnerton was *inter alia* approved for low-income housing.

The Milnerton Municipality, within these guidelines, and in consultation with the CPA and all other interested parties, with the aid of consultants, identified various possible sites in order to accommodate the Marconi Beam, Doornbach Farm, Table View, Frankendale and Bloubergstrand squatter communities.

After more than two years, and after interested groups, the public and the local inhabitants had been afforded several opportunities to comment, Milnerton formally applied for the proclamation of Du Noon at the end of October 1992, after it had become clear that the squatters did not find Frankendale acceptable because of the distance. The Administrator designated the area in terms of the Less Formal Settlement Act. Marconi Beam was rejected for various reasons. It is *inter alia* in the centre of the Milnerton municipal area and was earmarked for a business centre a long time ago.

The consultants had thorough regard for the nearby wetlands area and engineering planning will be dealing with all problems in this regard. I want to emphasise that all interested groups were invited, and will again be invited, to become involved in the planning.

Finally, the CPA is thoroughly aware of the problems that are being experienced because of squatting along the N2. Therefore this problem at Du Noon is being dealt with thoroughly by means of the following steps. The planned layout of the town is being done in such a way that the safest land-users will be located next to the N7. A considerably wider road reserve is being planned.

Urbanisation cannot be managed to such a degree that the low-income groups are kept away from the most important access routes completely. These people are to a great extent dependent on kombi taxi transport and therefore good access roads are important.

Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Chairman, it is quite clear from the hon the Minister's reply that the Government is bound by its decision of 1991. It does not want to change its mind despite getting better advice at this stage. It also smacks of possible forced removals from Marconi Beam. Are they going to remove those people and force them to live at Du Noon? How does one regulate people in squatter camps not to live here, but to live there? Have they regulated them along the N2?

The whole question of Du Noon transcends political differences. There is a misconception which should be cleared up. People in their right minds are not against land being provided to the landless. What I am issuing a warning against is the deliberate planning of a less formal township at Du Noon, at the wrong site, by the Milnerton Municipality and the CPA. There are no landless or homeless people living there at present. Therefore this is not an effort to upgrade or legitimise an existing state of affairs. Those people live at Marconi Beam. It is an attempt to move an existing squatter camp at Marconi Beam, across the road from the Milnerton Racecourse stables, to Du Noon. This is the wrong site and it would be a very expensive mistake if the Government were to allow things to proceed.

307 The police have warned that siting squatter camps next to main roads and thoroughfares could create situations of conflict. The N2 situation, which borders on the impossible, is a case in point. Du Noon is sited next to the N7, which is the main arterial road linking the West Coast and Namibia to Cape Town. As a township Du Noon would also create costly transport problems for its inhabitants, as it is far away from existing facilities and any possible workplace for its inhabitants.

The drainage typical of a less formal township, without sewerage and domestic rubbish removal, would soon turn Rietvlei, which is a very valuable wetland area—not only for the Western Cape, but indeed for the whole of South Africa—into a gigantic open sewer. As far as I could ascertain, no environmental impact studies have been made by the authorities involved on the potential for an ecological disaster should the Du Noon township be proceeded with. The Western Cape is the jewel of South Africa and its tourist potential is vast. We ask the Government not to proceed with this scheme. It will have a disastrous effect on the Western Cape as it will destroy an environmental gem.

As for the moneys apparently loaned by the CPA to Milnerton, at least then develop Du Noon as a fully fledged township—possibly a subeconomic one—and assist in the upgrading of the people. Alternatively, use these funds to improve living conditions at Marconi Beam. To anticipate that the inhabitants of Marconi Beam will move away is a fallacy. Despite my requests, I have been unable to obtain details from the CPA, as we are unaware of what properties have

continued

been bought at Du Noon, from whom, at what price and when.

*Mr J H W MENTZ: Mr Chairman, a government's highest priority is the safeguarding of the country's inhabitants. People should be able to travel daily between their places of work and their homes in safety. Their lives and their property should be safeguarded.

The Defence Force, the Police and the Cape Provincial Administration are all involved in the operation that is at present being launched along the N2.

To accomplish this kind of safeguarding costs millions of rands. The vegetation must be removed, fences put up and lighting installed. All of this must be done in order to keep the stone throwers far enough from the road. [Interjections.]

Where do the stone throwers suddenly come from? Do they come from Cape Town? They come from the TBVC states to look for work and then they squat next to the freeway. They are a danger to the citizens of this country. The country must take care of the safety of its own citizens first. Protection must therefore be afforded.

If the N2 is unsafe and costs so much to safeguard, why is the mistake being repeated? Why must the costs that are being incurred to safeguard the N2 be incurred to safeguard the N7? Surely we know what is going to happen there. Surely we know that the consequences will give rise to extra costs. It is going to cost as much, if not more.

It is stupid to settle these people next to freeways. I think the Government and the Provincial Administration should reconsider these decisions. [Interjections.]

The entire community, as far as I can see, is opposed to this decision. [Interjections.] I understand that even the ANC is opposed to it. I therefore appeal to the Government to reconsider their decision. [Interjections.]

*The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, I want to say unequivocally this afternoon that it is very difficult to reply rationally to an emotional question.

Mr R V CARLISLE: What about an emotional answer to a rational question?

*The MINISTER: I want to emphasise this afternoon that the Government will monitor the final planning fully in order to accommodate as far as possible the fears of those who are objecting. [Interjections.]

†I just want to make one remark. This is for the ears of the hon member for Heilbron. This decision was not just taken overnight. This is the result of investigations done by reputable consultants over two years.

*I want to tell the hon member for Heilbron and the hon member for Vryheid, who to my surprise also climbed onto the bandwagon about this, that their arguments this afternoon are playing straight into the hands of the radicals in the ANC camp, who want to intimidate the people at Marconi Beam into not moving.

That hon member referred to forced removal. Not a word has been said about forced removal.

I want to give hon members an example. There are those among them who know about the problem with squatters at Swannieville on the West Rand. They need only ask the hon member for Randfontein. There is a nest of problems. Right next door a proper, orderly informal settlement was established and these people are now moving there, also under pressure from the ANC and elements such as the hon member for Heilbron who is trying to intimidate people into not moving. [Interjections.]

Moreover, I want to say that the issue is not only Du Noon or Frankendale in the Western Cape. Du Noon is an interim measure in order to deal with a problem immediately in the short term. [Interjections.] But I want to tell hon members that in future this entire developmental axis, from the Cape Town metropolitan area to Atlantis, will have to be used as a new developmental axis for South Africa. [Interjections.]

I want to make another observation. [Time expired.]

*Mr J H MOMBERG: Mr Chairman, the interpellation is concerned mainly with Du Noon. I want to turn to the reasons why we feel that the people living at Marconi Beam should stay where they are.

Marconi Beam is one of the key areas in the Cape Town metropolitan area. The land belongs to Telkom, and we in the ANC believe that that land belongs to the people. [Interjections.] This

land is close to transport routes, shops and other urban amenities, and this is the main reason why people originally went to live there.

I want to warn that if the people at Marconi Beam are to be settled at Du Noon against their wishes, we are going to alienate them and make them hostile, and then we are going to have a repetition of the events along the N2. [Interjections.]

At least half of the people who are presently living in Marconi Beam are steel and factory workers, and they have a real interest in remaining in Marconi Beam. Being close to one's place of work is a significant reason for the development of a residential area. The development of Du Noon as an informal residential area does not have the consent nor the support of the people who are supposed to benefit from it. The solution of the problems with regard to urbanisation and housing should not be sought in alienating the poor by banishing them to the outskirts of a city.

It is therefore encouraging that, in sharp contrast to the N2 and in spite of the terrible circumstances of the people at Marconi Beam, there have been no real incidents along Koeberg Road. This is in my view the case because the people at Marconi Beam have a sense of solidarity.

The ANC rejects the Du Noon development and demands that the Marconi Beam people be settled where they are now living and that land be transferred to those people free of charge. Any attempt to move the people of Marconi Beam to Du Noon will be opposed with every means at our disposal.

Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Chairman, the hon the Minister is at his best when he is responding with an emotional smokescreen to a rational argument. That is when he is at his very best. No impact study was made at any stage on the effects of this on Rietvlei. Let us have the impact study if it was made. Let us see it.

The words on the tomb of the NP will be "interim" and "short-term measure". Those are the words that will be written on the tomb of the NP. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

Adv C H PIENAAR: We must consider investor confidence. The German chemical giant, Hoechst, has expressed its misgivings about this. The hon the State President called for investment yesterday. Yet, when a major investor says the Government must not do something, they close their eyes and ears and just proceed with an interim, short-term measure.

We cannot get details from the Cape Provincial Administration on the land sales. We say it is time that South Africa told the Government that it has had enough of secretive deals, with taxpayers' money being wasted and poured down the drain.

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, I immediately want to say to the hon member that there are no secretive deals.

*I shall ensure that he is furnished with all the information that he has just said he cannot obtain.

What I find very interesting is that hon members all spoke about a squatter camp that we are going to establish there. There in the centre of Milnerton people are living at Marconi Beam under the most dreadful conditions—without services, without water, without sewerage . . .

*Mr J H MOMBERG: They want to stay there!

*Adv C H PIENAAR: Upgrade it!

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

*The MINISTER: Just a minute. They are living on the sidewalk. This is, however, entirely acceptable to those hon members. [Interjections.]

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

*The MINISTER: We are saying that we should draw a distinction. Let us draw a proper distinction between a squatter camp and a proper, organised, planned informal settlement in that area.

I just want to make a final observation. It is that in the Cabinet we have approved certain guidelines with regard to impact reduction. These guidelines will also be applied there under the supervision of the central Government. The positive aspects must be emphasised. There must be inclusive consultation. There must be mutual communication, financial assistance, as determined by the Administrator, the promotion of community development, the protection

of vested interests and the maintenance of law and order.

A very important decision taken by the Cabinet is that 5 % of the total amount intended for all future projects will be set aside in order to deal with precisely this problem. For us to make an emotional outcry here this afternoon is simply being as naive as the fellow who said: "If I have four aces in my hand, I do not ask for another hand." There is not a single settled community in South Africa that will be happy to accommodate an informal settlement close to it. No one wants it.

However, I want to tell hon members that if we do not plan in good time and if we do not settle people in an orderly fashion in South Africa, we shall not solve this problem.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

State President:

Atlantis: visit of State President's wife

*1. Mr J J WALSH asked the State President:

(1) Whether, with reference to the reply to Question No 2 on 31 March 1993 in regard to his spouse's visit to Atlantis on or about 10 March 1993, the said visit was arranged by a certain political party, the name of which has been furnished to the State President's Office for the purpose of his reply; if not, by whom was this visit arranged; if so, what is the name of the party concerned;

(2) whether any portion of the cost incurred in respect of this visit was charged against the State Revenue Account; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what is the amount involved and (b) who gave approval for the amount to be so charged;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B893E

†The MINISTER FOR SPORT (for the State President):

(1) No.

(2) Yes. I have already replied fully to the same question by the hon member in this regard on 31 March 1993. It seems, however, that the hon member is actually interested in the cost of the function which was attended by my wife, which should be distinguished from the cost of her visit. My wife was a guest of honour at a goodwill tea which was organised by the Department of Education and Culture in the House of Representatives. The previous Minister of Education and Culture in the Ministers' Council in the House of Representatives, Mr Abe Williams, has already reacted fully to enquiries in this regard and I wish to refer the hon member to Mr Williams' letter in Die Burger of 16 April 1993. Should the hon member require further information in this regard, he should direct his question to the Minister of Education and Culture in the House of Representatives.

(3) No.

Mr J J WALSH: Mr Chairman, arising out of the reply, could I ask the hon the Minister why a goodwill tea organised by his former Department should be advertised as a NP function, inviting the public to come and listen to the hon the State President's wife and to him state their case?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, it is typical of that party to make a political football out of a goodwill tea. Atlantis finds itself in a very poor economic situation. It was never intended to be a political occasion. [Interjections.] What happened was that the ANC and that party made it a political issue. Therefore the NP had the right to go in and protect the interests of freedom of speech. [Interjections.] No, that was a NP pamphlet. The tea party, however, was a cultural function given by the House of Representatives. [Interjections.]

My problem with that party is that it seems as if they do not grant the Coloured community the right to have tea with the State President's wife. [Interjections.] They have never questioned it when the State President's wife entertained other sections of the community. When it comes to our section of the community, however, they question the cost. Therefore I can tell them . . .

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! No, I cannot allow the hon the Minister to go beyond responding to the question.

Mr J J WALSH: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could I ask him to confirm that in his own name he applied for and received R9 932 to compensate him for the expenses of this function? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, that was an application to the Director-General of the House of Representatives to pay for that function. It was a cultural function and it was agreed and approved. It was never a political tea party! [Interjections.]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! [Interjections.] Order! When an hon member puts a question to an hon Minister, the hon the Minister can at least expect to have an opportunity to respond to the question. The hon the Minister may proceed.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, when people set out in that community to wreck that tea party and go against the freedom of the hon the State President's wife to have a goodwill tea party, the ANC handed out a pamphlet. They started a pamphlet war. The hon member for Simon's Town addressed five meetings that evening, prior to the tea party. They turned it into a political issue. Then the NP . . . [Interjections.]

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, on a point of order: The question was asked further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply . . . [Interjections.]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member is addressing me on a point of order.

Mr R M BURROWS: . . . concerning a sum of money in order to ascertain whether that money was spent on a particular function. That was the question that was asked. The hon the Minister is now way off the point of the question.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I have already indicated to the hon the Minister that I cannot allow him to go beyond responding to the question that was put to him. I think the hon member . . .

†Mr J CHIOLÉ: Help him, Dawie! [Interjections.]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The next hon member to interrupt when the Chair is giving a ruling will leave the Chamber immediately, and I mean immediately! [Interjections.] Order! That also applies to the hon member for Hercules. [Interjections.] Order!

I have already indicated that the hon the Minister must confine himself to replying to the question. I think all hon members may leave it in the hands of the Chair to decide whether the hon the Minister is indeed going beyond the limits as laid down. The hon the Minister may proceed if he so wishes.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I was asked a question. I responded by saying that that cost was incurred in terms of a cultural function that was held in Atlantis by the then Minister of Education and Culture in the House of Representatives. [Interjections.] It was nothing but a cultural function and those were the expenses. The NP was never involved in that function.

Mr J J WALSH: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, could I ask him whether he does not believe that, because the NP clearly got publicity from this function they should, in fact, refund this money to the State and therefore the taxpayer?

HON MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

The MINISTER: We did not advertise the tea party. We did not get publicity beforehand. It is when they made a political issue out of it that the newspapers went in. That was free advertising for the hon the State President. We did not ask for it. Why should the NP be drawn into a matter that was never a political issue, but simply a tea party promoting goodwill? It subsequently became a very famous goodwill tea party.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member for Hercules indicated that he wished to put a question. Does the hon member wish to put a question?

Mr S P BARNARD: Me? Yes, Sir. [Interjections.]

†Arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can he tell me how many people were present at that cultural meeting?

Forum meets on squatter violence

Staff Reporter

RIVAL squatter leaders faced each other at a historic forum yesterday which was called to end the violence in Crossroads.

The forum, organised by the Westen Cape Regional Peace Committee, was attended by rival squatter leaders, the ANC, several peace structures, town councillors, SA Police, the CPA and mayor Mr Frank van der Velde.

The toll of violence in the area in the past five months includes more than 40 deaths and 105 families displaced.

And more than 420 victims have been traumatised, 30% of them children. There have also been 60 reports of arson and more than 100 gun attacks.

At the meeting chairman of the Goldstone Commission of Inquiry, Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, said a committee of the commission would hold an inquiry into the violence in July.

The ANC together with the CPA and controversial Crossroads squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe agreed that when development in the area was first mooted, all the parties said that all removals to new developed sites would be optional.

But, in practice, since the completion of the first part of development, there have been numerous reports of harassment, attacks and counter-attacks from both those who supported and rejected the removals.

The forum heard that other causes of the violence included allegations of police impartiality in the squatter wars.

The ANC — which said it had nothing to do with the violence — accused the CPA and squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe of taking unilateral decisions in trying to develop the area.

But Mr Nongwe and CPA spokesman Mr Faan Naude said there had always been extensive consultation with communities before new developments began.

ANC regional secretary Mr Tony Yengeni said he had heard of police ignoring attacks on innocent people in the area and their property. But he said he had no proof of this.

SAP Colonel Leornard Knipe denied the allegation.



LEADERS . . . Squatter leaders Mr Christopher Toise (wearing hat) and Mr Enoch Madywabe at a meeting on violence yesterday. Picture: HAROLD KING

(307) CT1916193



ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

THE row over the plan to settle squatters next to the N7 highway at Du Noon north-west of Table View has intensified with calls from several quarters for the Milnerton Town Council to rethink the proposal.

● The ANC has accused the council of "inept and racist town planning" by moving — "forcibly or otherwise" — Marconi Beam squatters 11km away.

● The pharmaceutical company Hoechst South Africa, which has a plant in the area, has told the government it is concerned.

● A property developer says he will claim compensation for a drop in land values in the area which has led to a R200-million housing development being put on ice.

● There is widespread concern for the environmental impact of the settlement on the ecologically sensitive Rietvlei wetlands.

● There is also concern about siting a high-density residential area so close to a national road.

● The Democratic Party has urged a fresh, independent assessment of the settlement.

But Milnerton acting town clerk Mr Trevor Hollis-Turner said the municipality had taken a "pro-active stance to provide serviced land" by means of the Du Noon re-settlement.

"Milnerton municipality has not shirked the reality of accepting its share of the responsibility for poor and destitute people in its area.

"Since 1990 the municipality has been involved in negotiations to resolve the problems of the homeless and destitute."

Town planners and engineering consultants "of great repute" were commissioned to conduct a detailed land-use study linked to land ownership, work opportunities, public transport and environmental impacts, he said.

The approach had been nothing less than totally responsible and professional, he said.

ANC (Western Cape) projects co-ordinator Mr Ralph Freese called on the municipality to develop the land next to the Marconi Beam settlement rather than move residents 11km to Du Noon.

"In every respect this is the better option. Bulk services are on hand and the land belongs to the State — through Telkom.

"Resistance to the very idea of lower-cost housing on the Marconi Beam site smacks of inept, racial town planning which continues to destroy communities.

"Removing these people — forcibly or otherwise — to Du Noon will add travel to their basic costs and reduce their ability to own homes."

Hoechst South Africa executive officer Mr Reinhard Traub said the proposed settlement "could have serious security and other implications".

Hoechst was also concerned about the environmental implications and the fact it appeared many Marconi Beam residents did not wish to move, Mr Traub said.

Malmesbury member of parliament Mr Gert Kotze said Hoechst had approached him about the development.

Caltex Oil has given R10 000 towards a management plan for Rietvlei because of environmental concerns about the impact of Du Noon.

Property developer Mr Ludwig van Deventer, whose land was expropriated for Du Noon, called on the council to erect "decent housing" at Marconi Beam.

He said he had shelved a R200 million plan for 1 200 houses across the N7 because the value of the land had dropped.

Squatter areas slow Table View house prices

(307)
CT JP 16/9/93

Property Editor

THE squatter saga in Table View has contributed to property prices dropping by up to 20% in recent months, estate agents have reported.

And the area hardest hit is the adjoining Richwood, adjacent to the proposed Du Noon squatter site, where about 50 to 60 of the 200 homes have been put on the market in the past two months, says Bill Rawson of Rawson Real Estate.

He said concern over the Du Noon squatter site had contributed to prices declining by between 15% and 20%.

David Mickleburgh of the Seeff Property Organisation said there was no doubt that Richwood would be affected by the proposed settlement and the Marconi Beam squatter settlement had already affected property prices in the upmarket Milnerton Ridge development.

He confirmed that Table View prices were down about 20% in recent months.

And Lily Cox of Cox and Rogers said some prices in the greater Tableview area were down by as much as 25%: "The presence of squatters is not aiding the situation."

Bloubergstrand, she said, was performing better. Interest was being shown both by Transvalers and those from the Somerset West area who were looking to buy closer to town to avoid travelling on the N2.

● Property Services statistics show the average selling price of houses in Table View has fallen from R171 322 last November to R156 932 last month.

Wall may be built along N7 freeway

(307)
CT 10/6/93

By PETER DENNEHY

MILNERTON municipality is planning to build a pre-cast concrete slatted wall almost 3km long between the proposed Du Noon settlement for former squatters and the N7 freeway, to lessen the likelihood of stone-throwing.

Provincial liaison officer Ms Melanie Dedekind said the wall would be similar to the one near the Marconi Beam site, off Koeberg Road.

The CPA would not be involved with the building of the wall, it would be covered by the R31 million or so loan Milnerton would be taking out with the National Housing Fund to develop Du Noon.

Assistant town administrator of Milnerton Mr Arno Vorster said the proposed wall next to the N7 was "one of several things on the table for negotiation".

The Du Noon settlement would not be a squatter camp, he said.

"A squatter area does not have waterborne sewerage, roads, electricity, piped water, stormwater drains, school sites, taxi ranks, a bus terminus and a cemetery, but Du Noon will have all that."

A detailed plan of the site showed there would be some 2 177 sites on 91ha of land.

The plan indicates there will be some residential plots beside the N7, despite an earlier statement from Province that Du Noon residents will not be sited alongside the N7. However, much of the boundary is taken up by sports fields, a school site, industrial land and open space.

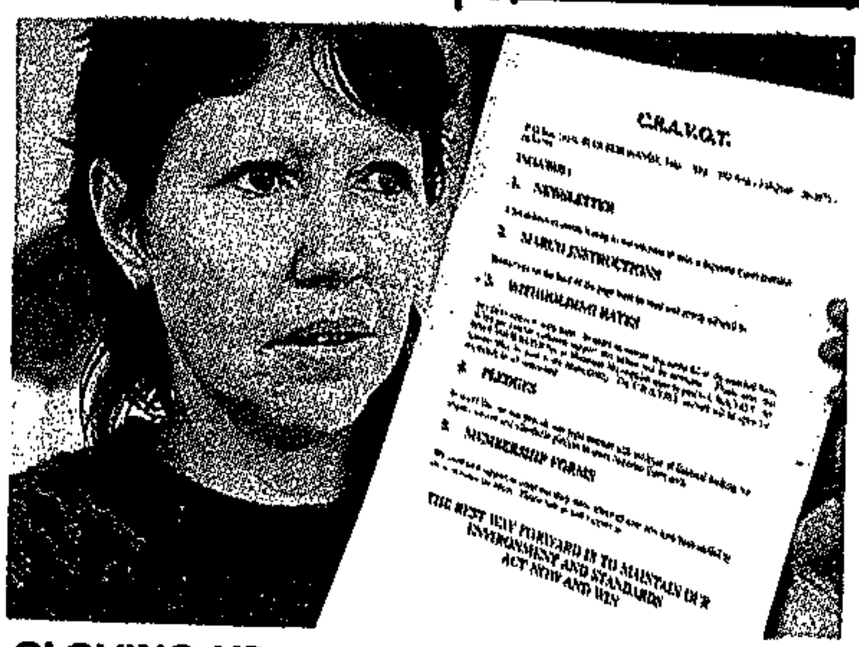
Most of the Marconi Beam residents had indicated their willingness to move there, Mr Vorster said, though some did not wish to move "for political reasons".

Angry Richwood residents — set to march on Saturday to try to prevent plans for 12 000 squatters to become their neighbours — said squatters were already filtering into the area and crime was on the increase.

In a Cape Times survey conducted yesterday at the newly-developed suburb next to the N7 and 200m away from the Du Noon development, irate residents criticised estate agents who sold them their property with "guarantees" that squatting would not become a problem.

"I feel scared," said Richwood resident Mrs Margaret O'Dea. "There are squatters on the farm land next to us and already there are problems with house-breaking. Last week seven cars were broken into."

And squatters at Marconi Beam who will be housed at Du Noon site are strongly opposed to the relocation. More than 30 Marconi Beam residents protested their "new-age apartheid forced removal" at the gates of Parliament yesterday.



GLOVING UP . . . Mrs Margaret O' Dea campaigns against the Du Noon settlement.

Airport traffic routed away from squatters

Staff Reporter

SIGNS have been removed on the N2 to deter motorists from venturing to D F Malan Airport past the Nyanga/Crossroads squatter camp.

To make the road safer officials are encouraging motorists to use the second turn-off on the city-bound carriageway.

An sign proclaiming the airport was 5km away at the Swartklip interchange would be changed to 7km to indicate the R54 off-ramp should be used.

Police spokesman General Deon du Toit said the stop street at the end of the off-ramp was close to the shacks and incidents of robbery had occurred there.

ANC investigates Khutsong leaders

LLOYD COUTTS

A DELEGATION from the ANC's PWV regional executive committee is to visit Carletonville after calls by members in Khutsong for the local leadership structure to be disbanded.

Khutsong branch members marched on ANC headquarters in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

The marchers then presented ANC officials with a memorandum claiming that members of their branch executive committee had been involved in violence, murder and intimidation.

The demonstrators threatened to return their ANC membership cards unless the organisation disbanded the committee.

A brief statement by the ANC PWV region said its regional executive committee would investigate the allegations contained in the memorandum "with a view to taking necessary steps to address the problems".

It said the memorandum was still being studied by the PWV committee.

"A delegation of the regional executive committee will also visit the area to receive first-hand information about the related problems in the area," the statement said.

Rape accused helped in search

SUSAN RUSSELL

FORMER policeman Jacobus Geldenhuys, accused of murder and rape in Norwood, Johannesburg, and in Benoni, had on one occasion helped search for a suspect in the case.

The court also heard yesterday that investigators suspected at the time of the incidents that a policeman was the rapist.

Det-Sgt John Miles told the Rand Supreme Court yesterday he had met Geldenhuys at Norwood police station once during the seven-month investigation.

Miles said he was on his way to follow up information he had received about a suspect living in a compound at Houghton golf course when Geldenhuys asked him for a lift to the internal stability unit at Kew.

Geldenhuys lived in the police single quarters in Norwood at that stage, but was based at Kew.

Miles agreed to give him a lift, but first went to the compound accompanied by Geldenhuys.

At the compound Miles asked Geldenhuys to keep watch and see that no one escaped through the windows while he went inside.

The detective said it was suspected at the time that a policeman was the rapist because of the close proximity of the SAP living quarters to the victims' homes.

Policemen took part in the identity parades held after the initial two rapes, but Geldenhuys did not participate in either.

Miles said it had also been a well-known fact among police personnel stationed at Norwood that an intensive investigation was in progress.

Asked by State counsel B Ferreira SC to describe how people in Norwood had felt at the time, Miles said that a type of hysteria had prevailed. "People I spoke to were very nervous," he said. "Some indicated to me that they were leaving the area because they didn't feel safe."

The trial continues today.

Squatting a long-term problem, says Shill

CAPE TOWN — Squatting would be a reality for a long time and would have to be carefully managed, National Housing Minister Louis Shill said yesterday.

"If we are going to deal with squatting, we will have to manage it in a way that is not detrimental to the long-term needs of those subjected to squatting," he said.

There would have to be co-operation with local authorities to ensure that squatting development took place within reasonable proximity to towns, to ensure easy job access.

Referring to the controversial proposed Du Noon development by the Milnerton municipality, Shill said this was not an ideal site for housing. "It is, however, an attempt to gradually upgrade people who are living in totally unhygienic conditions.

"Unnatural security circumstances" would have to be dealt with to prevent a situation similar to that at Khayelitsha, on the N2.

State spending should be a small portion of housing funds, with the overwhelming majority coming from the private sector, he said

"However, nothing will happen when people do not undertake reciprocal obligations. As long as there is an irresponsible attitude towards repaying service costs, we cannot expect money to come from the private sector." — Sapa.

Squatter crisis

'Explosion' as influx outstrips predictions

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE Western Cape is experiencing a "squatter explosion" three to five times the predicted growth rate — and the government yesterday vigorously defended efforts to manage the influx crisis, particularly the controversial Du Noon project.

About 900 000 "low-income black people" had settled in the Western Cape since 1980 and a further 600 000 could be expected over the next 10 years, the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Andre Fourie, warned yesterday.

"These people must live somewhere and we will manage the process as effectively and efficiently as possible," he said at a press conference.

Funds

Both Mr Fourie and the new Minister of National Housing, Mr Louis Shill, stressed that the controversial Du Noon township development near Milnerton would go ahead.

Mr Shill also said that about R2 billion of public funds could be spent on housing during the current financial year, but there would have to be stability for this to take place and for service and bond boycotts to end.

However, the major responsibility for the provision of housing should fall on the private sector, Mr Shill said.

Mr Fourie also said the government hoped to contain the fears of the public arising from the Du Noon development in regard to security. The government would take special interest in the type of township to be established there.

The township would be planned in such a way that



Du Noon go ahead . . . Mr Louis Shill

schools, sportfields, and clinics were placed nearest to the N7, that the road reserve was broadened and maintained and that all authorities and employers would be involved in order to get as many as possible of the new residents accommodation in conventional housing.

Among those who have publically slated the Du Noon project is the Western Cape police chief, Lieutenant-General Nic Acker, following an upsurge of stoning attacks on motorists on the N2, another major highway bordered by squatter camps.

Estimates

Mr Fourie stressed that the development of the Du Noon project would be approached positively by "inclusive consultation, proper communication, effective community development and to ensure that we tend to the needs and aspirations of the low-income community on the one hand and the vested interests of existing communities on the other".

"The government is not insensitive but it must be borne in mind that way back in 1980 estimates indicated an additional black low-income community for the Cape Metropole of 300 000 by the end of the century.

"We now already stand at 900 000 and indications are that we can expect an additional 600 000 within the next decade."

Mr Fourie said there was "a tremendous debate" going on about the Du Noon development, but solutions had to be found in which there were no winners or losers.

"We must take hands and jointly resolve the problem."

The decision to go ahead with the development was the result of three years of negotiations and consultations by the authorities and reputable consultants.

"We will take care of this development in a sensitive, responsible and reasonable manner."

The government had taken serious note of representations, objections and fears of all relevant interest groups.

"There is no talk of 'forced removals'. We will continue to negotiate with the Marconi Beam squatters to move to a properly planned site-and-service township at Du Noon with streets, water, sewerage and electricity."

Stability

Mr Shill said squatting was a fact and would be with South Africa for quite a long time, but long-term needs had to be assessed and had to be managed properly.

The Du Noon township development was an attempt to improve the stability and living conditions of the people.

The site-and-service scheme would have roads, water, sewerage and electricity. There would also be conventional housing at the township.

● **Squatters go for Du Noon — Page 2**

Wheelchair woes . . .



BACK ON THE ROAD . . . Oom "Appeltjie" Hartzenberg of Montagu was banned from the road for drunken driving in his wheelchair — but is back, with a sober assistant.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

Squatters go for Du Noon

(307)

Municipal Reporter

"THIS place is full of water, and dirty. The children get sick. There is no cleaning and we don't have proper yards. We have been dirty for a long time," a woman living at the Marconi Beam squatter camp said yesterday.

The woman was asked yesterday by the Cape Times whether squatters at the camp wanted to move to Du Noon, near Milnerton.

People would run to Du Noon if services were provided there, "but if they put them here, people will stay here", she said.

Most squatters at the Marconi Beam site indicated that they would be willing to move to the proposed new settlement of Du Noon because services would be installed.

However, some squatters indicated they did not wish to move, whether or not services were provided at Marconi Beam.

Most of those who wanted to go complained about the water lying around, sometimes right up to or into the shacks, and they also mentioned that they wanted proper toilets and a taxi rank.

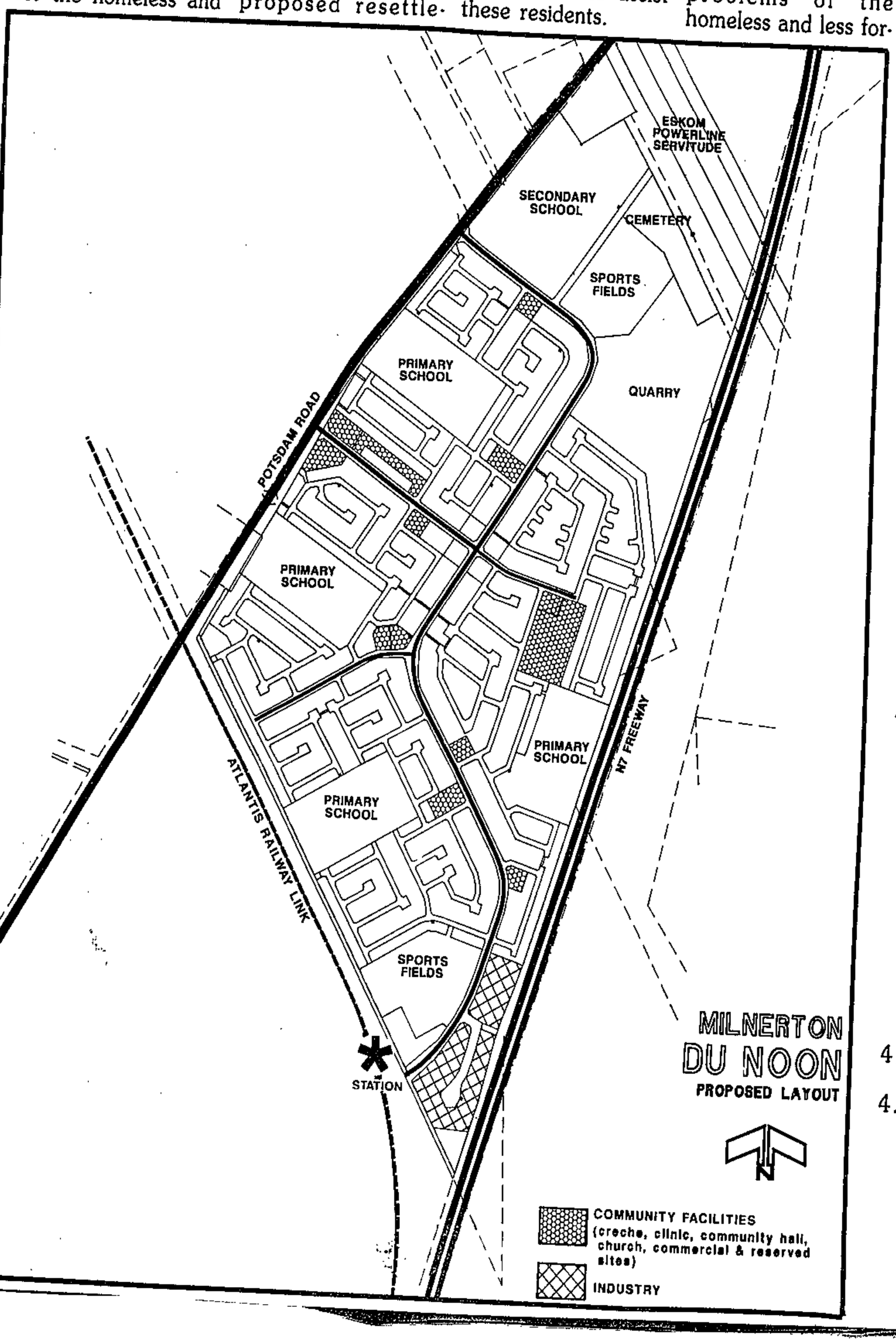
Mr Dick Meter, who works for the Development Action Group, said that in a sense the authorities were undertaking a "forced" removal, but using a carrot rather than a stick. CT 11/6/93

ARG 507
11/6/93

Milnerton Municipality take income Housing De

The Municipality of Milnerton has paved the way by taking a pro-active stance to provide serviced land for the homeless and destitute members of the population within its municipal and immediately adjacent areas by means of the proposed resettlement to Du Noon and has obtained subsidised funds from the National Housing Commission to assist these residents.

Since 1990 the Municipality has been involved in negotiations to resolve the problems of the homeless and less fortunate. Council commissioned town planners and engineering consultants to conduct a detailed land use study, linked to investigations in land ownership, work opportunities, public transportation and the environmental impact.



The following reasons substantiate the selection of Du Noon:

1. It meets the requirements of being a vacant site within the municipal area;
2. It is close to public amenities such as transport and shopping;
3. It allows for the economical provision of services and community facilities;
4. The negative impact on the environment will be significant these aspects being taken into consideration the engineering and planning consultants. The planning and recommendations include:

4.1 A waterborne sewerage system

4.2 A stormwater wetland system designed to ensure the natural filtering and cleaning of stormwater before it reaches the Diep River

ADVERTISEMENT

's the lead with the Du Noon low

velopment

307
ARG 11/6/93

Furthermore, the site does not offer any significant conservation-worthy features or vegetation which could be endangered by the proposed development

5. The site will offer a safe living environment for its residents with protective measures to ensure that children are not endangered by passing traffic, and that motorists can travel on adjacent main routes in safety.

The consolidation of all informal dwellings into one area has a definite advantage to all residents of Milnerton, and would lead to a more cohesive community and allow for the more cost effective utilisation of resources.

Facilities Provided:

The Du Noon informal settlement will be very different to what is commonly referred to as a 'squatter camp', in that full services to the area including a water supply, tarred roads, a sewerage system, street lighting, and a stormwater management system will be provided and electricity will be available to all.

The residents of this area will have to pay for future housing themselves with finance to be made available by major financial institutions. Council's consultants have already confirmed that funds for affordable housing have been identified. Council is therefore confident that in the longer-term, more formal housing structures will be erected at Du Noon. Once the development becomes operational, sites will be allocated to the residents on a contractual basis. This allocation process will be administered by an information and training centre to be erected on the site.

Whilst the project is estimated to cost in the region of R36-million, the capital to acquire the land and develop the infrastructure will be obtained by way of loans funded from the National Housing Commission, which are subsidised according to income levels of individuals.

The Du Noon community will be self-sufficient in that schools, churches, creches, clinics, community halls, sportsfields, other recreational facilities and a number of individual sites for shopping facilities will be made available.

Humane Considerations:

We must remember that we are dealing with human beings who have for far too long been chased from pillar to post without any certainty of permanence of residence. The development will be undertaken in a co-ordinated manner in consultation with the affected parties.

The development proposals are not an open invitation to thousands of homeless and unemployed squatters to settle within our municipal area. These proposals have to do with the provision of a proper and affordable services infrastructure arising directly from the process of urbanisation. 2 100 erven will be made available to house approximately 12 000 persons.

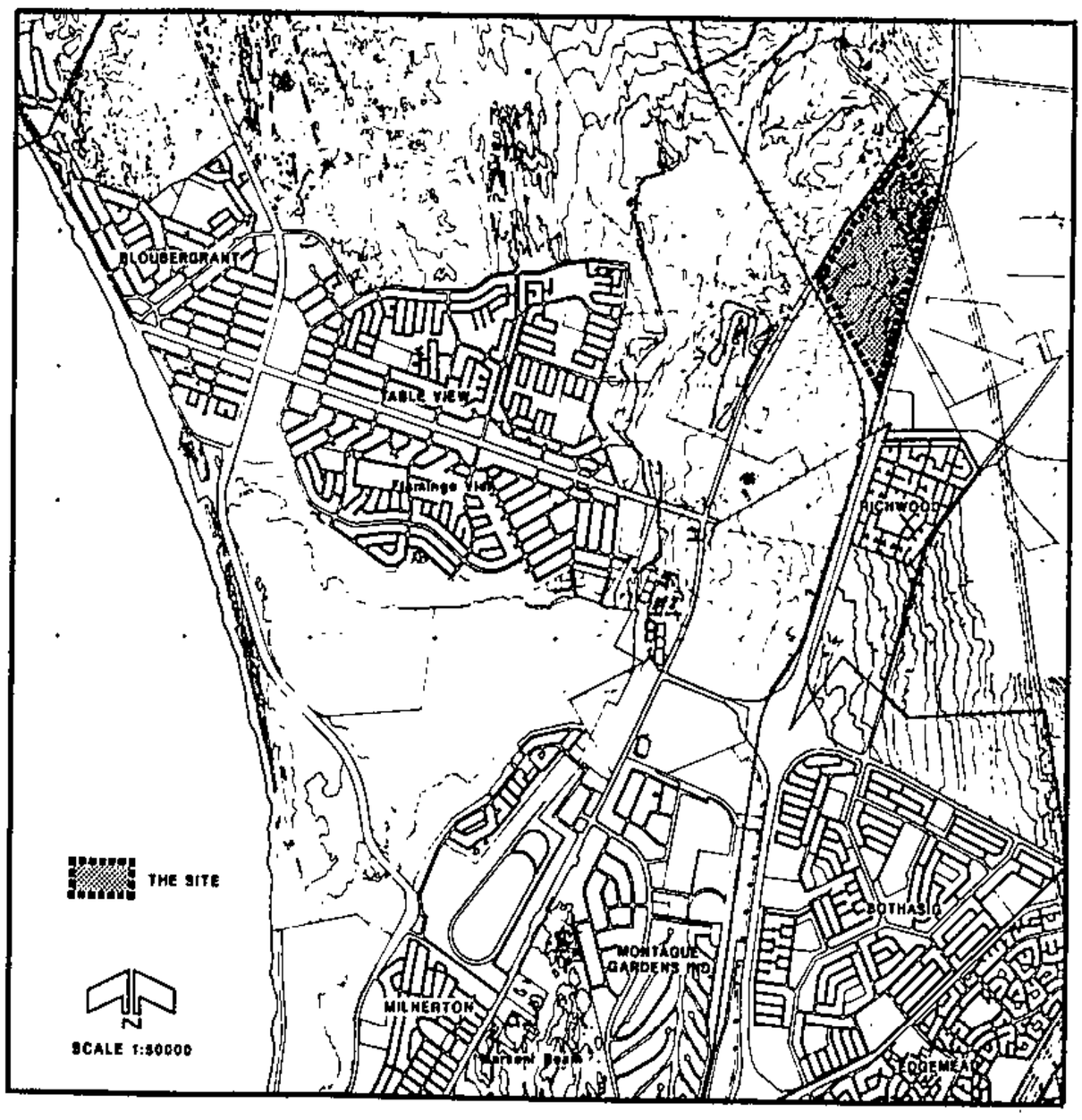
South Africans from all walks of life will have to become reconciled with the fact that the poor and needy are fellow countrymen and all parties will simply have to learn to live together peacefully. It is a myth to believe that Milnerton will be able to escape the realities of accepting its share of the responsibility for homeless persons when viewed against the overall challenge facing South Africa. If every Local Authority accepts the challenge, as has been done by Milnerton, many of the problems can be resolved.

The Municipality of Milnerton appeals to all persons to exercise their minds objectively. Urbanisation is a reality which cannot be wished away! Poor and destitute people have a right to exist and can no longer, as in the past, be relegated to some obscure area to be hidden away from the rest of society.

The sooner we commence positive actions, the sooner we will begin to address the problem of urbanisation caused by inadequate planning in the past.

An earnest appeal is made for all affected parties to become reconciled with the fact that there is much work to be done.

LOCALITY PLAN



Issued by the Milnerton Municipality

Milnerton civic group supports squatter plan

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

THE Milnerton Ratepayers' Association has broken ranks with other civic associations in the area by supporting the Du Noon squatter settlement — and has condemned use of the issue for "political opportunism".

Chairman Peter Wrensch said the issue had been prejudiced further by "hype about the N2".

Support by Milnerton ratepayers for the Du Noon development signals a break in ranks with the ratepayers' associations of Richwood, Bothasig, Table View and Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot), who oppose the settlement.

Mr Wrensch said his association had empathy for the squatters living in squalid conditions with raw sewage seepage on the Marconi Beam site off Koeberg Road.

Criticising "emotional" reactions from the ANC and the right wing, he said both seemed incapable of breaking away from racial considerations.

"The dismissal of proponents of the Du Noon development as racists by ANC projects co-ordinator Mr Ralph Freese is particularly offensive because he expediently ignores the fact that this development will provide genuine upliftment."

There were plans for schools, recreational amenities, transport facilities and the chance to build homes in a stable community.

ARG 11/6/93

Cravot chairman Danie van den Heever said the Milnerton Ratepayers Association's view was "shortsighted".

Government determined to press ahead with Du Noon

ARG 11/6/93

☐ Plan to use schools, sportsfields and clinics as buffer zone

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

THE government is determined to press ahead with the controversial Du Noon settlement to meet a rapidly expanding low-income housing need in the Western Cape — but has given its assurance that security concerns will be tackled.

Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie said proposals included broadening the N7 road reserve alongside the development, and building schools, sportsfields and clinics near the road. As much conventional housing as possible would be built.

The government has also undertaken not to force Marconi Beam residents to move, but to try to persuade them to move through negotiation.

Mr Fourie said 1980 estimates indicated an additional black low-income community for the Cape Metropole of 300 000 by the end of the century, but that the figure already stood at 900 000 "and indications are that we can expect an additional 600 000 within the next decade".

"The people must live somewhere and we will manage the process as effectively and efficiently as possible," he said.

And newly appointed Minister of National Housing Louis Shill warned that squatting was "going to be with us for a long time".

Mr Shill, acknowledged that the Du Noon site was not ideal for housing, but said it was "an attempt to gradually upgrade people who are living in totally unhygienic conditions at the Marconi Beam squatter camp".

"It must be clear to all who are concerned about the future of South Africa that the squatting problem has to be carefully managed.

"If we are going to deal with squatting we will have to manage it in a way that is not detrimental to the long-term needs of those subjected to squatting."

Mr Shill said there would also have to be co-operation with local authorities to ensure that squatting development took place within reasonable proximity to towns to ensure easy job access for the residents.

Mr Fourie said the government would take care of the Du Noon development in a "sensitive, responsible and reasonable manner".

It would be a "properly planed site-and-service township with streets, water, sewerage and electricity".

"We will take special interest in the type of township to be developed."

This would entail:

- Containing the fears of the public with regard to security.
- Placing schools, sportsfields and clinics close to the N7.
- Maintaining and broadening the N7.
- Involving all authorities and employers in order to get as many of the new residents as possible accommodated in conventional housing.

Mr Fourie said the government could not afford to ignore the reality of urbanisation.

Mr Shill said security concerns in the case of Du Noon would be tackled "from the word go" to avoid the situation that had arisen on the N2.

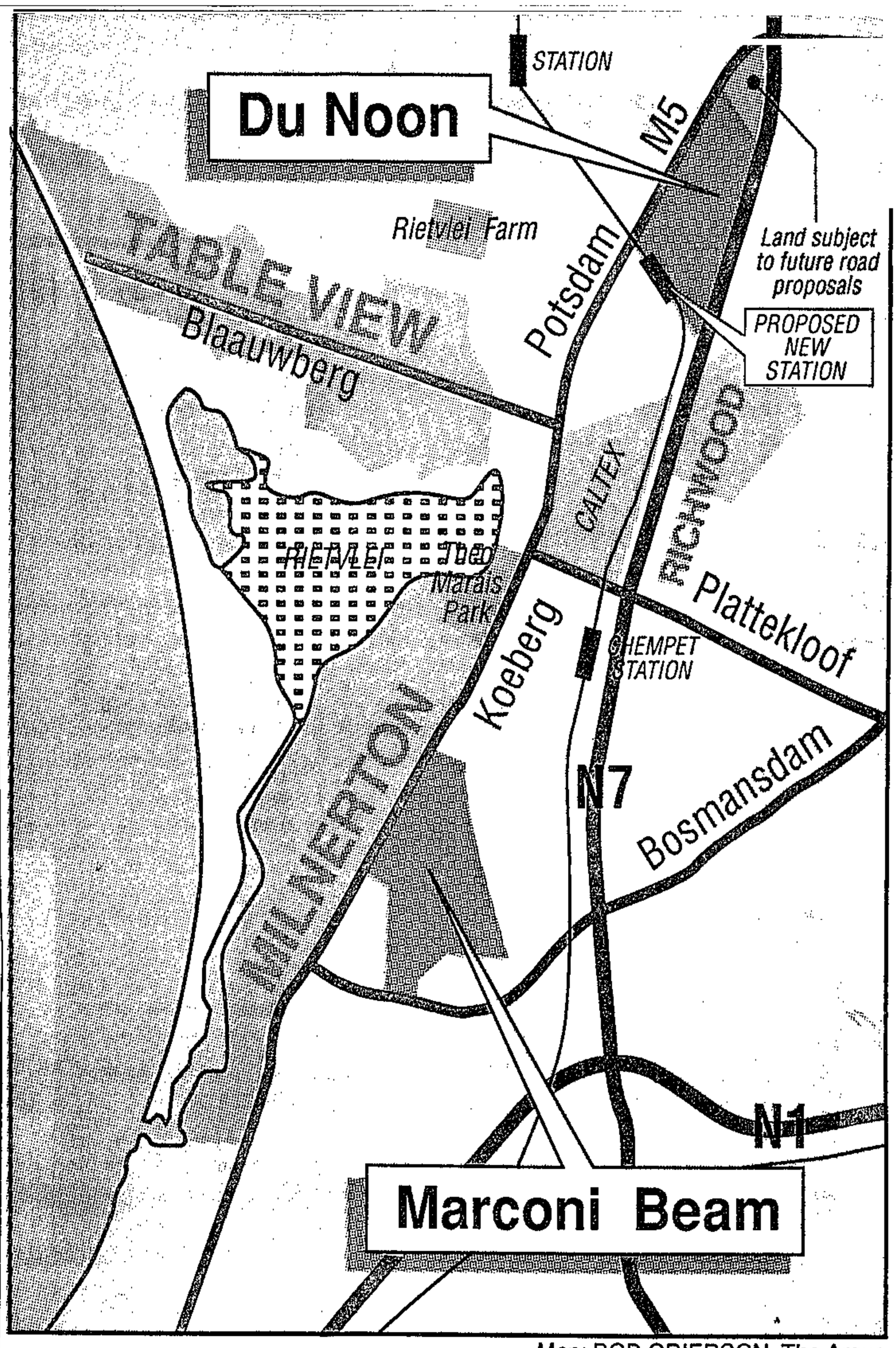
Du Noon had to be regarded as a mixed housing settlement.

"The object is to try to get a mix of traditional housing and site-and-service to help people see what they can progress to. It could also be an example of what can be done."

Mr Shill warned that private sector funding for housing would not be forthcoming if there was an "irresponsible attitude" towards repaying service costs.

"Nothing will happen when people do not undertake reciprocal obligations."

Most of the money for future housing provision would have to come from the private sector.



Map: BOB GRIERSON, The Argus

Row erupts over squatters

307

ARG 12/6/93

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Weekend Argus Reporter

A BUN-FIGHT has erupted between the African National Congress and the Milnerton Ratepayers' Organisation over the Milnerton Town Council's proposal to develop Du Noon for squatters.

Objecting "in the strongest terms" to a statement by the ratepayers' chairman, Mr Peter Wrensch, accusing the ANC of emotionalism and racism, ANC Western Cape leader Dr Allan Boesak said: "If anything, it is the ratepayers who appear to be motivated by racial considerations."

Yesterday, Mr Wrensch slated the ANC and the rightwing for their "emotional" reactions to the Du Noon proposal.

Announcing his association's backing for the Du Noon site — Du Noon is 11 km further from the Milnerton town centre than Marconi Beam — Mr Wrensch accused the ANC of "expediently ignoring" the fact that Du Noon would provide "genuine upliftment".

But, Dr Boesak reiterated the ANC's commitment to the "proper development" of the Marconi Beam site.

"We believe all the facilities which could be made available at Du Noon could be made available just as easily at Marconi Beam.

"The issue has nothing to do with political opportunism — we are motivated solely by our concerns for the well-being of Marconi Beam residents."

Dr Boesak said Milnerton residents historically were opposed to Marconi Beam and "we view their support for Du Noon to be motivated by that fact".

"From all planning and humanitarian considerations, it makes a lot more sense to upgrade the area where people are living rather than to move them away to a place where they would incur additional expenses such as travel."

The ANC rejection of Du Noon and support for the development of Marconi Beam was based on four principles "essential" in identifying land for low cost housing:

- The position should be acceptable to the people living there;
- Infrastructural costs should be reasonable and bulk services readily accessible;
- The land should be well positioned with respect to employment opportunities and general facilities; and
- Transport systems should be able to be provided without vast expenditure.

Mr Ralph Freese of the ANC's projects department said residents had chosen to live at Marconi Beam "and adequate housing must be provided".

Bulk services like water, electricity and sewerage were on hand at Marconi Beam and the land was owned by the state, through Telkom.

'Site-and-service schemes have not succeeded in building vibrant communities, nor have they housed people at a reasonable cost."

"In addition, travel costs are often so high they preclude people from buying houses," he said.

Accept new neighbours, pleads Doc Dawie

(307) ARG 12/6/93

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

AS the controversy over the planned Du Noon informal settlement in Table View rages on, the government has announced that after reconsideration it remains convinced the "most acceptable solution" is to continue with the project.

Today a protest march, organised by the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot), will move from the corner of Study and Blouberg roads to the Table View police station, where a letter of protest will be handed to the station commander.

Cravot chairman Mr Danie van den Heever said this week it "bordered on madness" to push ahead with the development, in view of all the resistance against it.

Yesterday, Minister for Public Enterprises, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said: "As a result of various representations concerning the Du Noon project ... the government has again considered the matter. It would appear, nevertheless, that the most acceptable solution is to continue with the implementation of the project."

Dr De Villiers said it was necessary to provide low-cost housing for informal settlements and that this would also have a bearing on other squatters who were established in the area.

As a result of the representations, the Cabinet had decided on various steps to address the objections.

These included:

- Responsible co-ordination between the central authority, the CPA, Milnerton Municipality and local interest groups;
- The planning of the area had to make it possible for low-cost conventional housing to be provided, by involving employers and others who could contribute to the provision of housing;
- Sportsfields, schools and clinics to form a buffer between the N7 and the residential areas as well as "ongoing consultation with interest groups".

■ Low-cost housing is seen as a way to solve the Du Noon issue.

The safeguarding of the N7 was "a very high priority" and the Department of Nature Conservation and consulting engineers had to investigate and satisfactorily address any possible negative impact on the environment.

Dr De Villiers said the government had given "the most earnest consideration" to the objections and representations which were received and had come to the conclusion that the development had to proceed.

"I understand the natural resistance of communities to low-cost housing projects in their area. It is, however, unavoidable that every community accept and manage, in an orderly way, the full spectrum of housing, including informal settlement.

"Communities must learn to accept each other and work together to create a new spirit. We are both white and black, rich and poor in this country. We live on each others' back doorsteps. The challenge is to address the backlogs together and to engage in upliftment in such a way that orderly, stable and happy communities can be created."

A spokesman of the Development Action Group (DAG) said Marconi Beam, where many of the squatters lived, was "well-located near areas of work and shopping and urban opportunities. In terms of the present situation, I think the municipality is trying to forcibly remove the people to Du Noon."

He said the Marconi Beam area was waterlogged and people were living in very harsh conditions. The municipality's "refusal" to drain the water was putting pressure on the residents of Marconi Beam.

The spokesman said it was "high time everyboby moved away from apartheid planning".

Milnerton town clerk Mr Pieter Gerber said the municipality and the Marconi Beam civic association had agreed that an independent socio-economic study be done among the residents of Marconi Beam by the Urban Foundation.

The study would also try to establish how residents really felt about moving to Du Noon.

He would not comment on today's protest march, saying it was people's "democratic right" to vent their feelings about issues.

"One can't wish away urbanisation. Everybody in the Cape Town metropolitan area must seriously think about this, so that the situation does not get out of hand later. The truth is not always pleasant.

"We have to put emotions in perspective. We are on our way to much bigger things in the new South Africa."

The Marconi Beam ground was appropriate for the development of businesses and industries, which would in their turn create new job opportunities for squatters.

Mr Gerber said there were rumours that a "type of Mafia" had sold sites in Marconi Beam to squatters for up to R500, even though the ground had not belonged to this group.

He had also received an anonymous threat yesterday from someone warning him that he was "the next Hani".

Squatter threat moves traffic to N1

CT 12/6/93

Municipal Reporter

FEARS of being stoned by squatters living close to the N2 have led motorists to make increasing use of the N1.

This was confirmed yesterday by Cape Town's traffic chief Mr Wouter Smit who said the shift to the safer road did not appear to have added "significantly" to existing congestion on the N1.

The chief traffic officer of Somerset West Mr G F W Willis said yesterday that it seemed to him that virtually his whole town had changed its travelling habits, especially at night.

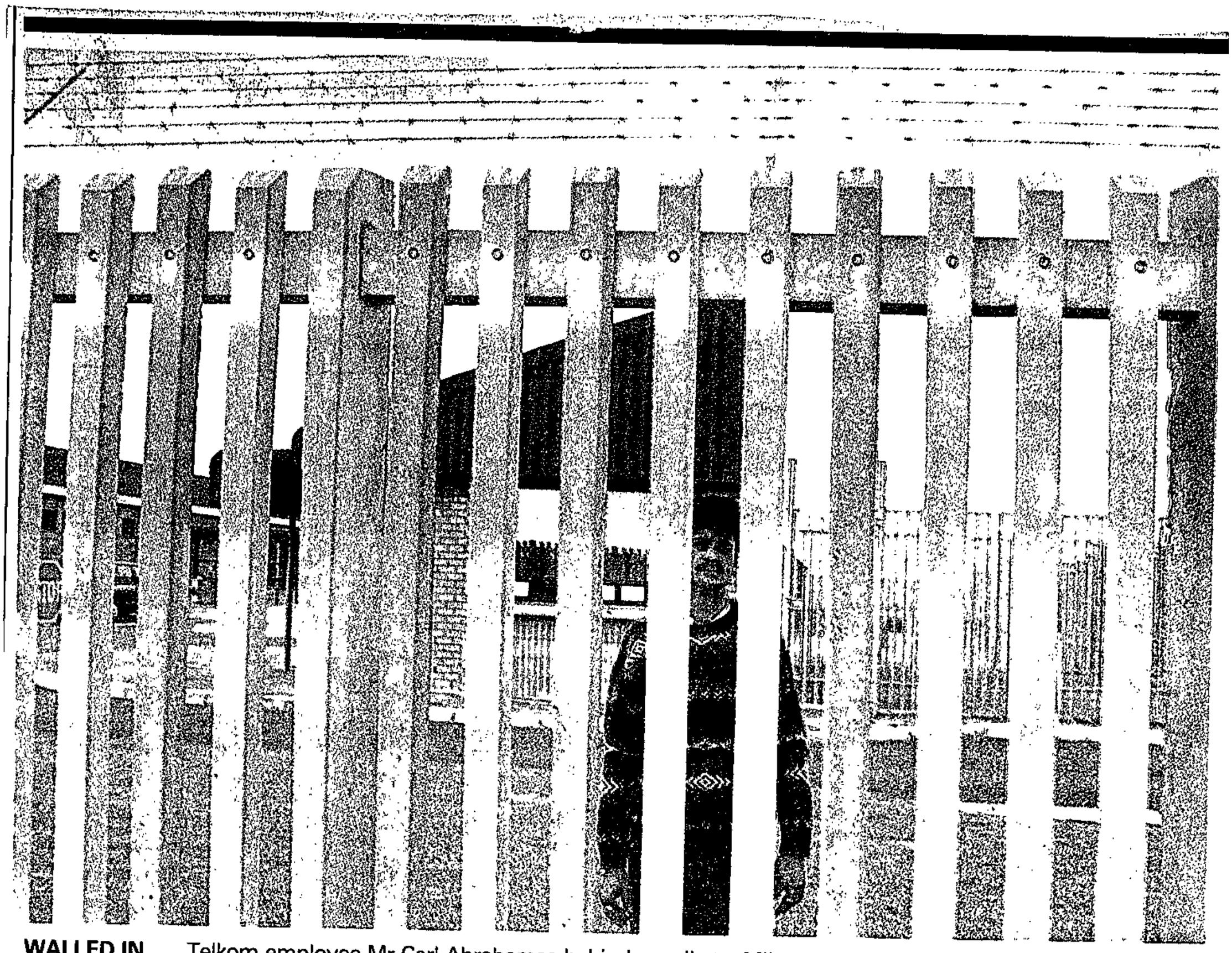
"People just don't travel on the N2, (towards or from Cape Town)," said Mr Willis. "I think that most people from here avoid it, and take an alternative route."

Most motorists went via Kuils River, while some took the Strandfontein road, he said.

"They take the old road to Bellville. Just past Kuils River you get on to the R300, and about six kilometres later you get onto the N1," he added.

Mr Willis described the route as about 10 or 15 minutes longer than it would take to go to Cape Town via the N2. He was not sure of the difference in kilometres between the two routes.

Meanwhile, travellers on the Black River Parkway, which links the N2 with the N1 on the city side of Pinelands, have reported a marked increase in the number of cars going in the direction of the N1, especially just before dusk.



WALLED IN . . . Telkom employee Mr Carl Abrahamse behind a wall at a Milnerton Telkom site that is similar to the one the Milnerton Municipality is planning to build where the proposed Du Noon settlement area borders the N7.

Du Noon go-ahead despite MPs' views

By BARRY STREEK

THE cabinet had decided to go on with the Du Noon settlement project despite the objections of the two local National Party MPs, the NP's Cape leader, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

The government had again reconsidered the matter as the result of representations by the MP for Malmesbury, Mr Gert Kotze, a former cabinet minister, and the MP for Wellington, Mr Giel Malherbe, he said in a statement.

"It would appear nevertheless that the most acceptable solution is to continue with the implementation of the project.

"The necessity of informal settlement to make provision for low-cost housing also has a bearing on other squatters who are already established in the area."

Dr De Villiers said that because of the representations by Mr Kotze and Mr Malherbe, the cabinet had decided on various steps to address the objections.

This included a requirement that concerned parties co-ordinate action "responsibly", that as much low-cost conventional housing as possible be provided, that the N7 be safeguarded, that negative impact on the environment be avoided and that community development programmes be implemented.

These steps had been decided as a result of these representations and ought to address the prevailing objections "to a great extent".

He added: "I have understanding for the natural resistance of communities to low-cost housing projects in their areas.

"It is, however, unavoidable that every community must accept and manage in an orderly way the full spectrum of housing, including informal settlement.

"Communities must learn to accept each other."


ARG 12/06/93

■ **SCRUMDOWN AT TUYNHUYS.** In a new kind of political and rugby front row were, from left, Mr Ian Borthwick, media relations officer for the French team, Fench manager Mr Guy Laporte, President de Klerk, French coach Mr Pierre Berbizier, Sports Minister Mr Abe Williams, and Mr Koos de Beer, liaison officer of the South African Rugby Football Union.

Picture: DOUG PITHEY, Weekend Argus

MARTIN CHALLENOR
Weekend Argus Political Staff

PRESIDENT De Klerk put South Africa's national pride on the line last night when he boldy told the French rugby manager, Mr Guy Laporte, that the Springbok team would be "at the top" in the World Cup in 1995.

Mr Laporte and coach Mr Pierre Berbizier met President De Klerk in Tuynhuys. The players were left behind at Newlands, training for today's game against Western Province.

At the urging of Press photographers, President De Klerk and his guests linked arms and scrummed down in a reception room in Tuynhuys. "I am not a hooker," President De Klerk insisted. "I am a flank."

He said: "We know of the formidable capacity and strength of French rugby. South Africa looks forward to meeting them on the field.

"Off the field, we are also very grateful to have them here. We offer them all the hospitality which South Africa has to offer. May the best team win. I have my favourite.

"Should it go the other way, they will find South Africa can also be good losers. But we intend to be winners this time.

"We are very grateful that the World Cup will be run in South Africa. We feel that our facilities are well able to cater for it. It will be a wonderful privilege for South Africans."

The event was important from a tourism point of view. From a rugby point of view, President De Klerk said: "We plan to be at the top of the league before 1995, and we plan to stay there for the World Cup."

President De Klerk said he appreciated that the French rugby team had found time to help South Africa's developing rugby players by taking part in clinics.

Mr Laporte said President De Klerk had received him and Mr Berbizier "with a lot of warmth, which is what we have already got used to since our arrival".

President De Klerk "is a man who is aware of the things of rugby".

Mr Laporte hoped South Africa would be able to re-establish itself at the top of the rugby nations by the 1995 World Cup. France and international rugby needed South Africa. "We hope our friendship will be long," said Mr Laporte.

Rugby breaches language barrier

ARCHIE HENDERSON
Weekend Argus Reporter

UGBY breached the language barrier in R Nyanga as French-speaking stars taught Xhosa and Afrikaans schoolboys the finer points of the great game.

Several members of the touring French rugby team, who play Western Province at Newlands today, spent yesterday afternoon with about 100 eager lads from Crossroads, Nyanga and Ottery in a special rugby-coaching clinic arranged by the Western Province Rugby Football Union.

French three-quarter Philippe Bernat-Salles said he had been moved by the eagerness of the boys to learn the game.

His teammates, Philippe Benetton, Hervé Couffignal and Pierre Hontas, expressed similar sentiments.

Reginald Jako, a teacher and rugby coach at Nelson Mandela High in Nyanga, said the boys were keen to come and see the French. "They won't be at the Province game, of course, so this is their only chance to see these famous players."

Crossroads schoolboy Luzuko Cuba, who plays No 8 in his school team, said that in the little time he had been coached by the Frenchmen he had learned a lot.

"It was a great opportunity for me."



WIN TWO RUGBY TEST TICKETS PLUS R2 000 CASH! in the Chris Burger/Petro Jackson Players Fund Competition.

Win 2 VIP Test tickets – *watch the game from the best seats in the stadium – and enjoy the VIP party afterwards! PLUS R2 000 CASH! All this and an official Springbok Supporters tie or peak cap can be yours for* ***only R10*** *an entry.*

Plus! 100 Bonus prizes to be drawn. Every winner can choose between an official Springbok Supporters tie or peak cap. *The more entries you take, the better your chances – and the more you score, because you get AN EXTRA FREE CHANCE with every 10 entries.*

OFFICIAL PRIZE LIST

First Prize: *TWO Test Tickets for South Africa vs. France at the Test centre of your choice, either Durban (26 June) or Ellis Park, Johannesburg (3 July), PLUS invitations to the VIP post-Test party for yourself and your partner, PLUS R2 000 CASH and your choice of an official Springbok Supporters tie or peak cap.*

100 Bonus Prizes: *100 Springbok Supporters insignia peak caps or ties.*



A Message from Morné du Plessis, Fund Chairman: *"If you really love rugby, you should be a Friend of the Chris Burger/ Petro Jackson Players Fund. You get a chance to win great prizes, see Tests in luxury - and you'll be helping rugby players who through injury have met with severe misfortune. These days, more than ever before, we need funds to answer all the calls for help.* ***So be a sport and enter now.*** *You only need R10 to become a Friend and win!"*

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:

- *The closing date of the competition is 21 June 1993.*
- *You may send in as many entries as you like, using the entry form.*
- *All valid entries will be included in the draw and no receipts will be issued.*
- *No member of the board of Chris Burger/Petro Jackson Players Fund, their consulting agency, or their families will be eligible to enter if directly connected with the competition.*
- *Winners of Spot the Ball competition will be decided at a public draw held at the Fund competition offices, 6th floor, Sanclare, Dreyer St., Claremont, at 12 noon on Monday 21 June 1993.*
- *The first correct entries drawn will win the Test tickets, and thereafter the Bonus prizes.*
- *All winners will be notified direct immediately after the draw. A full list of winners is available to anyone who includes a stamped and self-addressed envelope with their entry form.*
- *The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.*

IMPORTANT

1. *Do NOT send registered letters*
2. *Do NOT use pins, staples or sticky tape*
3. *Do NOT stick stamps on postal orders.*
4. *Entries and donations must be in ONE envelope*
5. *Cheques and postal orders must be crossed and made payable to Chris Burger/Petro Jackson Players Fund.*

FUNDRAISING NO. 088001930005

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM *

It's easy to enter. Simply answer the following question:
*THE ACTUAL BALL IS HIDDEN BEHIND EITHER BLOCK **A** OR BLOCK **B** OR BLOCK **C** IN THE PICTURE: BEHIND WHICH BLOCK IS THE BALL?*

A **B** **C** *(please indicate your answer with an X)*

Number of entries ☐ (10 paid entries, that is every R100, qualifies for one free extra entry.)

I enclose my cheque ☐ postal order ☐ for the amount of R.....
(R10 per entry) in favour of ***Chris Burger /Petro Jackson Players Fund.***

Fill in your name and address and send this form, together with your postal order or cheque to: ***Spot the Ball Competition, P.O. Box 23634, Claremont 7735.***

Name: .....

Address: .....

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.....*Postal Code* .....

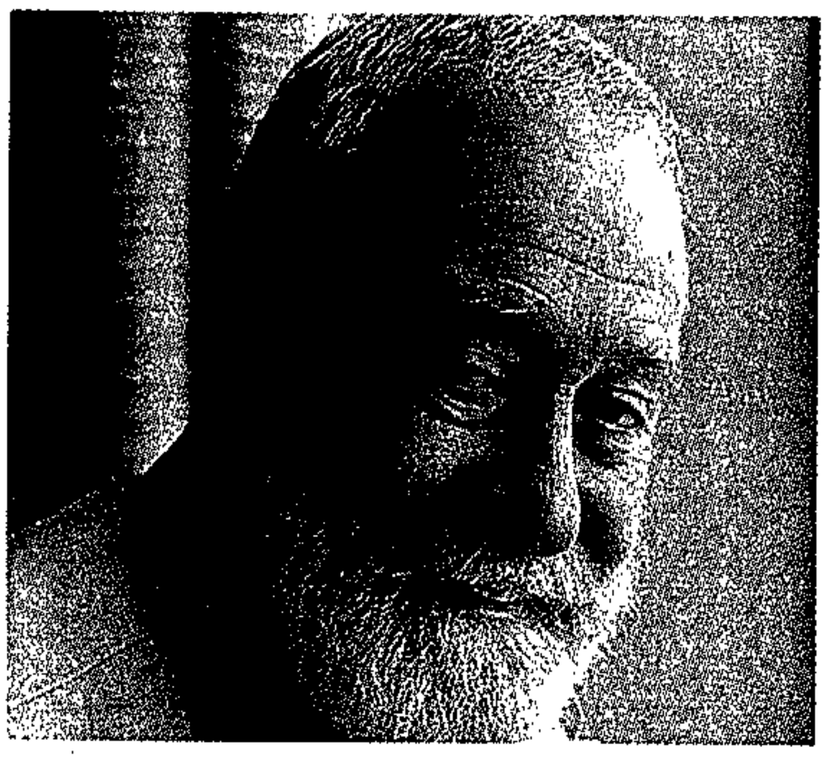
Tel. no.....(code) .....

I accept the conditions of the competition.

Signature.....

ARG 12/06/93 (207)

CPA's plan



Picture: HANNES THIART, Weekend Argus.

☐ **MR FAAN NAUDE,** the CPA's Western Cape regional director, community service ... "We're developing as fast as we can."

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE fact of squatters living alongside arterial roads is directly linked to economics, and the need for the poverty-stricken to be close to transport routes cannot be ignored.

Squatting is one of the manifestations of urbanisation throughout South Africa — and, the answers do not lie in popular calls for wide buffer strips and other regressive policies that will effectively hamstring the progress already made.

So says Mr Faan Naude, the Cape Provincial Administration's Western Cape regional director, community services, who spoke to Weekend Argus this week amid an uproar over increased stonings of vehicles on the N2 and vehement objections to the relocation of a squatter community to the Du Noon area of Milnerton.

Discussing the CPA's battle to supply land for too many people in too short a time, Mr Naude said planning should be carried out so that "the use of land close to throughways is of such a nature that we keep these types of incidents down to a

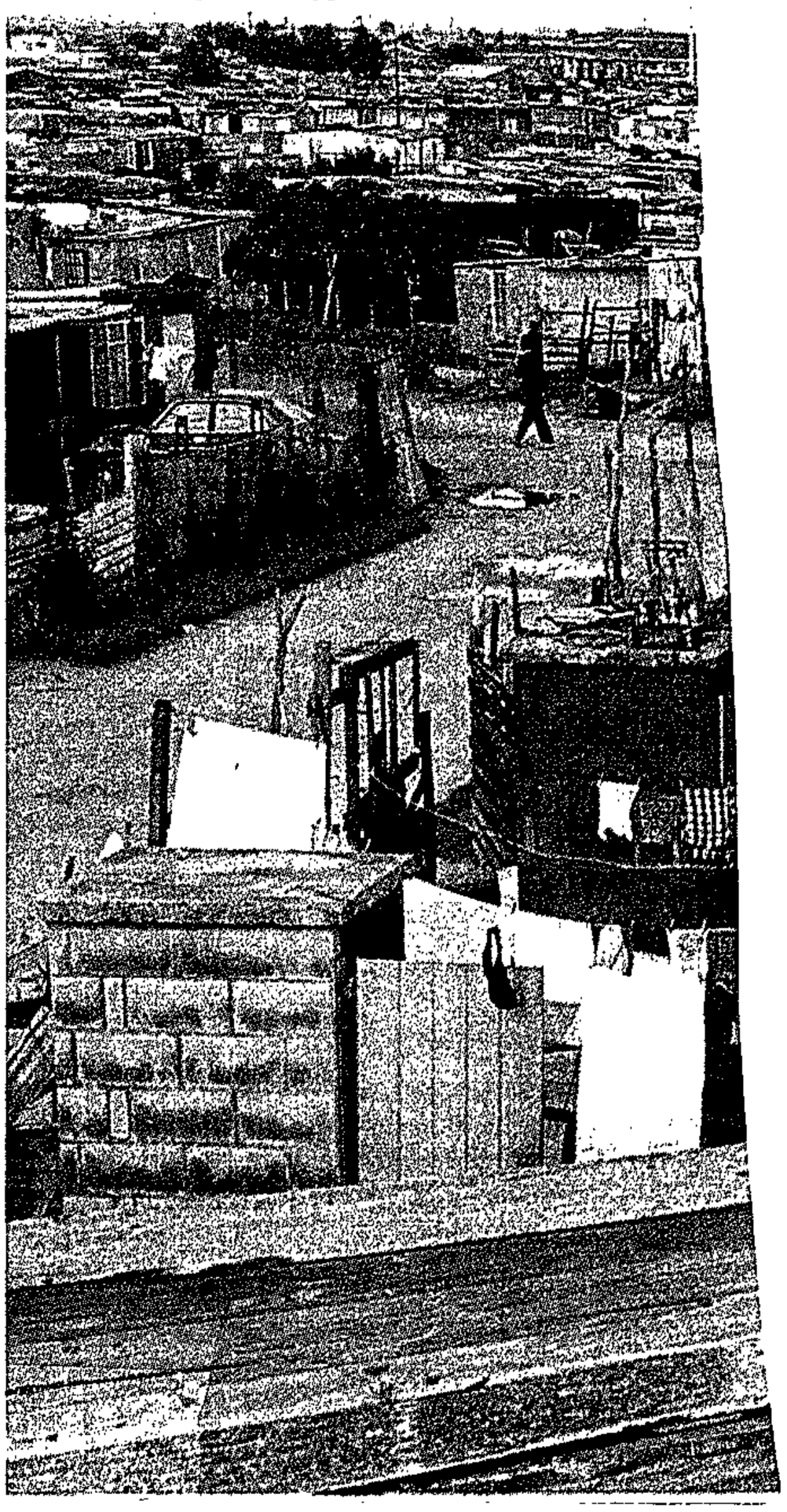
Cape Flats, the highs and lows of property

■ THE Cape Flats will never be the same again, with life in the black townships having changed in the past 10 years — largely because of increased urbanisation and the disappearance of apartheid laws. Weekend Argus Reporter **VUYO BAVUMA** looks at the situation.

SINCE the erosion of stringent apartheid laws began, unoccupied land in the Western Cape townships has become hot property.

Hectares of unoccupied land have either been taken up by squatters or developers to build posh houses for those who can afford monthly bond repayments of around R1 500.

In the wake of reforms, the scramble for land began in earnest in Langa and Guguletu in the mid-1980s and later spread to Khayelitsha —



for squatters

■ Squatting — one of the facets of urbanisation — is a hard fact of life in South Africa and there is no way it can be wished away. Instead, the paradigms need to change. (307) ARG 12/6/93

bare minimum, or get rid of them altogether.

"But, we cannot ignore the necessity for proximity to the main arterial routes. That is part and parcel of the whole urbanisation process we are experiencing in South Africa."

Urbanisation, he said, had overtaken the state's ability to supply the required resources, but he emphasised that the CPA's Serviced Land Project would go a long way to eliminating the backlog and coming abreast of demand over the next five years.

"But, until we get abreast and ahead, the visual manifestations of urbanisation, such as we see along the N2, will remain and will create the impression that nothing is being done."

Mr Naude emphasised that giving people a piece of land with a toilet was not enough and that site-and-service was only the start of the process.

"Because of financial constraints, we have to develop according to the money we receive. At the moment, the best we can do is site-and-service.

"We are developing as fast as we possibly can, but the tempo of development is dictated by the availability of land and money."

Another vital factor was the involvement of the community, which was the keynote to the success of any new development. When land identification took place, the various options were discussed with the larger community involved until consensus was reached.

But, compromises had to be made "somewhere along the line" because decisions taken, even after wide consultation, "don't always fall within everyone's taste".

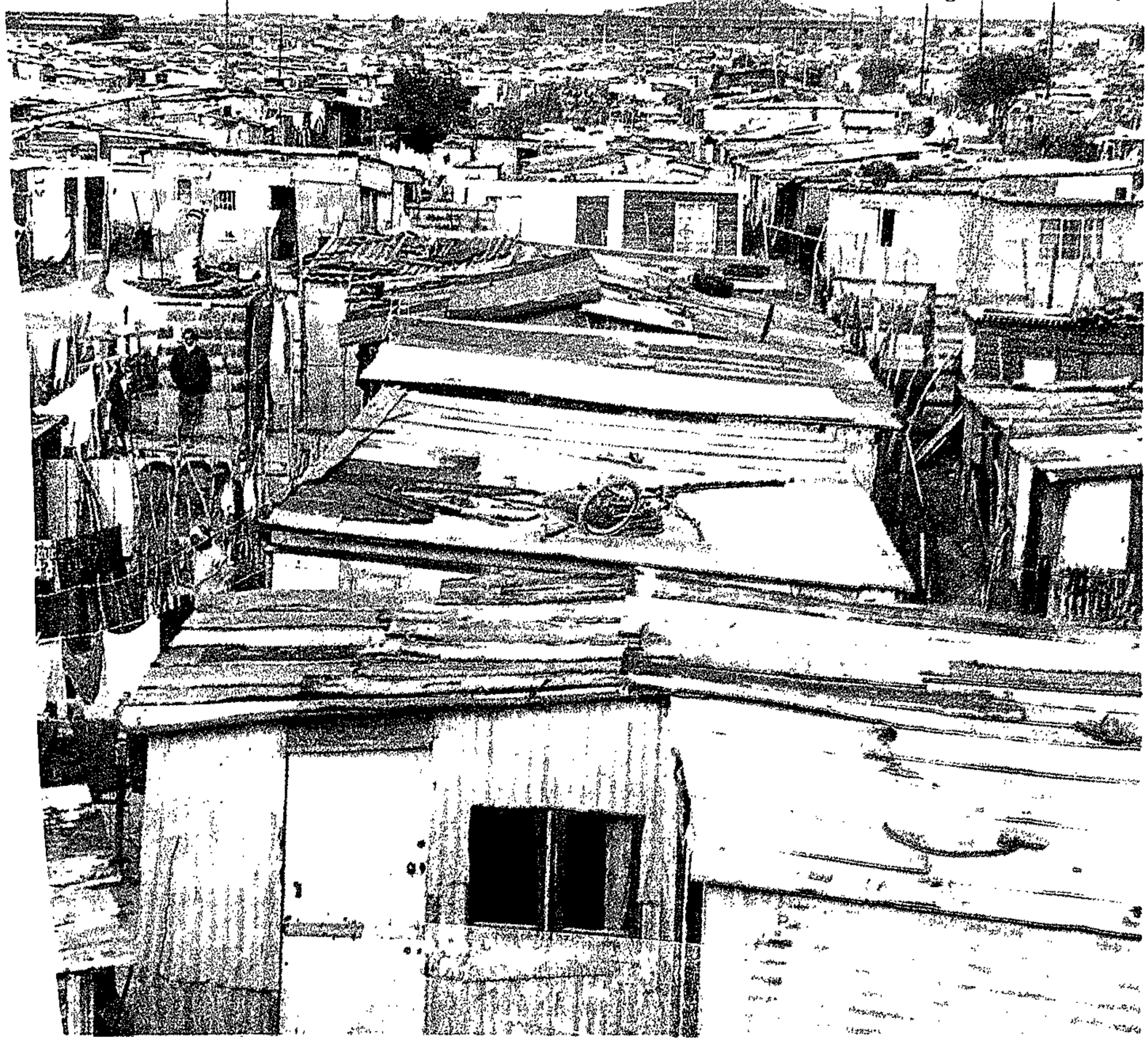
"We have always prided ourselves in the Cape on never ignoring the human factor when dealing with urbanisation. Our approach always has been to be supportive to the communities involved and not to exacerbate any existing strong feelings.

"We have not razed any huts or moved anyone against their will. Where people have been resettled, it's been with their total co-operation."

Mr Naude said the only positive way of managing urbanisation was "to reach out to it" and to do everything possible to help the squatters settle down. Assistance from the established communities need not come in the form of money, but rather in the sharing of skills which would contribute to general upgrading.

To counteract one of the CPA's main problems — unemployment and the resultant poverty — most of their tenders put out now had a "labour-based dimension" which meant that, once the contractor pulled out, some skills were left behind. This kept money in circulation in the community.

"Many of the squatters are tied into a survival structure within the communities in which they live. It's the only way they can live. It's a structure in which everyone helps one another."



Building a community from scratch is a challenge

(307) ARG 12/6/93

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE establishment of new squatter settlements doesn't end with roads, sites, toilets and street lights; the real work begins when the community liaison officers go in to help build the social infrastructure.

"Instant towns" were not what the Cape Provincial Administration was building and their commitment to community development was all-important, chief community liaison officer Salomé Meyer said.

Explaining the complexities of making a success of new settlements, Ms Meyer said resources needed to be taken into the communities and organised so they would work.

"Working out a social infrastructure for any particular community means a partnership between that community, the government, non-governmental bodies and community-based organisations — although it is the community that must identify its own needs.

"Empowerment as far as skills, attitudes and knowledge is concerned is also extremely

Volksunie and ANC agree on squatters

Sowetan 12/6 - 16/6/93

By Christelle Terreblanche

PARLIAMENTARIANS from parties as diverse as the Afrikaner Volksunie (AVU) and the ANC defended Milnerton's Marconi Beam squatters on Wednesday.

Advocate Cehill Pienaar, AVU MP for Heilbron, asked Land Affairs minister, Mr Andre Fourie, whether the government took steps to establish an informal township at Du Noon. (307)

Du Noon is land next to the N7 freeway the government and Milnerton Town Council intend moving the Marconi Beam squatters to.

The squatters have vowed not to move as the Du Noon land is far from their workplaces.

Said Marconi Beam spokesperson Mrs Elda Mahlentle: "Although we are living in a pigsty we refuse to move."

Fourie said the Du Noon removals was "an interim measure to address a short-term problem".

"The entire Western Cape will have to be re-planned to meet housing needs," he said.

Pienaar said the AVU was concerned that Du Noon borders the freeway, causing problems similar to the stone-throwing on the N2.

He also said the settlement could harm the Rietvlei wetlands nearby.

Mr Jannie Momberg, independent MP and ANC member, said if the squatters were settled against their will at Du Noon, "we will fight this with all our power".

Fourie said the AVU was "playing in the hands of the radicals", helping them to intimidate the people against moving. "Nobody in a formal settlement wants squatters to live next to them."

Several political and interest groups, including a company operating near Du Noon, have urged the Milnerton Town Council to think again.

Row over refuse to go to court

S1 Times 13/6/93

(Cape metro)

A SUPREME COURT battle is looming over a multi-million rand contract for refuse removal in Cape Town's squatter areas.

By DIANA STREAK

An urgent application will be lodged this week by SA Bio-Tech and the Western Cape United Squatters Association (Wecusa) against the Ikapa Town Council's decision to rescind SA Bio-Tech's contract for refuse removal in several squatter areas.

This is in spite of the fact that SA Bio-Tech's prices are considerably lower than those of local authorities.

The council's decision to cancel the R7,2 million contract, awarded in August last year, comes just four months after the company was told by the council's Chief Executive Officer, Mr J J Olivier, that they were "highly satisfied" with SA Bio-Tech's standard of service.

The case arose after a letter was written by the Western Cape manager of Waste-Tech, Mr S Kimber, to the CPA in November questioning the contract with SA Bio-Tech.

The contract was awarded after the Regional Services Council withdrew their refuse collecting services from the squatter areas.

The Ikapa Town Council extended SA Bio-Tech's existing contract from Brown's Farm and Hazeldene to other squatter areas because Ikapa said it was unable to render the service itself.

A number of allegations in Waste-Tech's letter — dated November 18 last year — were claimed to be inaccurate by both SA Bio-Tech and the Ikapa council, which said the current contract saved the local authority R4m a year.

Despite this, an attorney acting for SA Bio-Tech said yesterday that Ikapa had informed his client that they would oppose the application.

Ikapa last week said there was no binding contract because of the manner in which the tender was extended to SA Bio-Tech, which levies a charge of R2,45 per household.

Criticised

In a letter to the CPA Mr Olivier explained that "it should be pointed out that the rate per household of the Ikapa Municipality amounts to R3,07.

"If calculated on a comparable basis with SA Bio-Tech, viz: three units per household per week for both refuse removal and cleansing services, the rate amounts to R3,78 per unit.

"This means that the commercialisation of the service is saving this local authority an amount of R1,33 per unit and, therefore, close to R4m per annum," Mr Olivier said.

In a letter to Mr Faan Naude, the Ikapa Administrator, Wecusa criticised the council's cancellation of the five-year contract and threatened steps if it went ahead.

Wecusa said it would not allow any refuse removal trucks, except those of SA Bio-Tech, into their areas, and would resist any further involvement by the Ikapa Town Council or the CPA in their areas.

Protest over squatters



RESIDENTS AT WAR . . . Angry Table View residents demand that the council rethink its plans for another settlement Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

EMOTIONS ran high as hundreds of angry Table View residents marched on the local police station yesterday to protest against the proposed Du Noon settlement.

Their anger was focused on the mayor of Milnerton, Mr Danie Krynauw, who remained inside the security fence of the police station during the protest.

A memorandum objecting to his council's decision to move squatters from the Marconi Beam camp near Milnerton to Du Noon was handed to him.

One angry protestor, who accused the Milnerton council of "making the area a dustbin", threw a handful of silver coins at his feet.

The protest followed a decision by the Milnerton municipality to go ahead with its plans to develop the site in spite of vehement objections by the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot).

Residents are also concerned that the settlement is to be right next to the N7 highway to the West Coast. Considering what is happening on the N2 at the moment, they fear the development could endanger the thousands of motorists — including Malmesbury farmers — using the road daily.

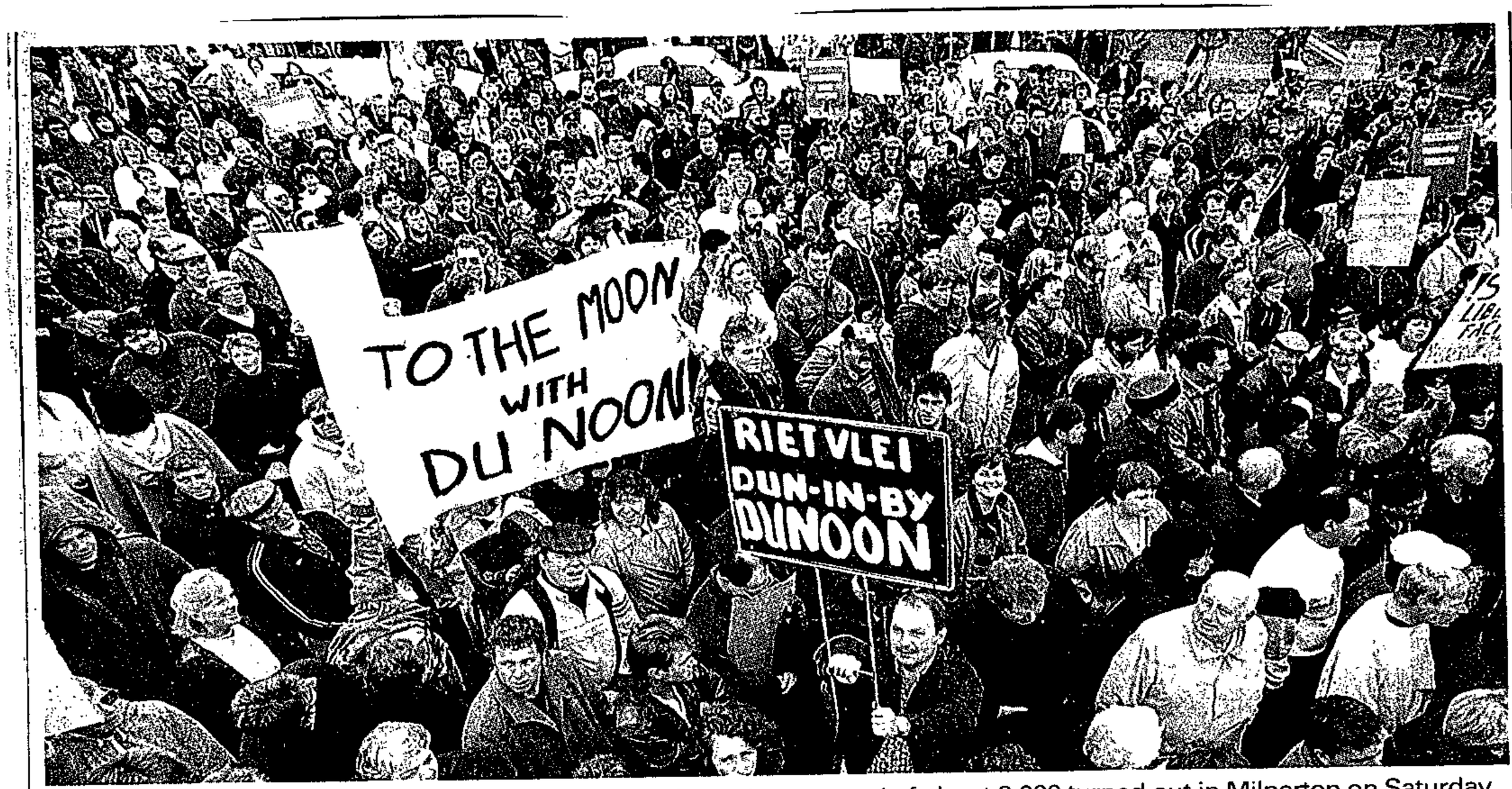
Study

The organisation reiterated its call for an impact study at the site before anyone was moved there.

"Failing to do an environmental impact study will severely endanger the natural heritage of the Rietvlei Wetlands," said Cravot chairman Mr Danie van der Heever.

Cravot also condemned the council's proposal to dispose of storm water effluent from the settlement into the Rietvlei reed beds along open channels.

Meanwhile the organisation was considering a rates boycott, he said.



MASS ACTION . . . In spite of miserable wintry weather, a large crowd of about 2 000 turned out in Milnerton on Saturday morning to protest against the decision to move Marconi Beam squatters to Du Noon. Picture: BENNY GOOL

(307) CT 14/6/93

Govt 'not insensitive' over Du Noon

Staff Reporter

REPORTS that the government was insensitive over the Du Noon squatter issue were dismissed yesterday by Regional and Land Affairs Minister Mr Andre Fourie.

Reacting after Table View residents on Saturday protested against the planned settling of squatters at the nearby Du Noon, the minister said the issue had been widely discussed four times in the past week — including at a cabinet meeting and in Parliament.

He further gave the assurance that the government would fully monitor the final planning to allay the fears of the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot).

Meanwhile Cravot secretary Mr Chris Potgieter conceded yesterday that a few participants in Saturday's protest march had shouted racist statements.

But he added that they had soon been told to "shut up", because their sentiments were unacceptable.

Nearly 2 000 angry marchers, many bearing placards, marched to hand over a petition to the mayor protesting against the council's decision to go ahead with the settlement of squatters at Du Noon.

Mr Potgieter said: "We are trying to stop the racist apartheid thinking that has gone on for so long. There are funds available for housing the Marconi Beam community. The authorities are ignoring the rights of human beings. It is important to us that the people of Marconi Beam are not once more downtrodden."

He had read of a simple house that could be erected for R13 900, which was "streets ahead of a squatter shack".

Mr Potgieter said he had been enormously pleased by the good turnout at the protest march. "Evil flourishes when good men do nothing," he said.

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High Du Noon on squatters tonight

307
Political Staff AEG 15/6/93

THE dispute over plans to resettle Marconi Beam squatters at Du Noon beside the N7 is to be aired at a meeting tonight in the Milnerton library under the auspices of the Western Cape Peace Committee.

Committee spokesman Mr Hannes Siebert said it would be the first meeting of all interested parties.

While the Milnerton Ratepayers' Association supports the proposal to resettle the squatters, members of the Bothasig, Table View and Richwood associations and Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View do not.

On Saturday about 2 000 marched in protest.

Squatters refuse to move to Du Noon

(307)

MG 17/6/93

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS living at Marconi Beam in Milnerton say they will not move to the controversial Du Noon site.

About 250 residents marched to the Milnerton municipal offices yesterday and handed a memorandum to town clerk Mr Peter Gerber, demanding a toilet for each Marconi Beam household, the draining of flooded parts of the settlment, the removal of rubbish and cleaning and servicing of toilets.

A campaign of mass action was announced after the march and squatter leaders said it would continue until all demands were met.

The residents demanded to be allowed to stay at Marconi Beam because the site belonged to Telkom, the State, and therefore the people, said African National Congress MP for Simon's Town Mr Jannie Momberg.

Mr Gerber undertook to give the memorandum to the town council.

TIME TO MOVE ON CLASS ACTION ...

Taking on the state — and winning

Weekly Mail Reporter

IT BEGAN in May and June 1988 when thousands of squatter homes in the informal settlements around Cape Town were completely destroyed.

Residents claimed police were responsible, leading crowds of *"witdoeke"* into the area, helping them attack and burn houses.

The massive destruction of homes led to one of the largest claims ever made against the state by a community, with about 3 300 former residents bringing claims for their losses.

Eventually the dispute was settled when a trust was set up, with the state putting in R2-million and five major donors between them raising over R500 000.

This money was used to help compensate the community whose homes had been burnt down.

The trustees ensured that the money was used correctly. Almost R2-million was paid out in compensation to those who suffered loss and injury in the attacks and the balance was spent on community development programmes including a mobile clinic, financial assistance to community schools and the construction of 10 prefab community centres for the benefit of the former residents.

The trust has now been wound up, and the last instalments for the community development programmes are being paid out.

A total of R1 960 657 has been distributed among 2 947 individuals who suffered damages during the attacks. The balance of more then R586 000 was spent on a number of community development projects.

The size of the project was almost unimaginable.

In addition to the Legal Resources Centre, which co-ordinated the case, it involved 27 different firms of attorneys; it showed new possibilities for legal technology, with special computer programmes being developed to cope with the intricate demands of the court action and subsequent settlement process.

It involved close co-ordination with the affected communities, and developing an innovative payment procedure to make sure funds reached the beneficiaries safely.

Putting some punch

South Africa missed an opportunity to lead the world on the issue of legal standing in public interest cases. Parliament must now step in with new laws on class action, reports

CARMEL RICKARD

ABOUT 20 years ago, the South African courts took a decision which put this country at the forefront of world legal thinking on the question of public interest or class action and *locus standi* (the legal standing to bring a court application).

This was the 1975 case of Wood v Ondangwa Tribal Authority. In that case, the courts allowed church leaders in then South West Africa to bring an action on behalf of many rural people, preventing the tribal authorities from unlawfully arresting the people for belonging to certain political organisations.

Since that case however, the courts have interpreted *locus standi* very narrowly and the chance to the lead the world in this important area of law has been lost.

Senior law lecturer at Wits University, Cheryl Loots, says the only way forward now, is for parliament to step in, change the law on standing, and explicitly authorise class action and public interest action.

Loots is a member of the South African Law Commission's newly formed team which is to investigate the whole issue of standing and class actions. Based on the findings of their research, the Law Commission will then make recommendations to parliament about a new law.

Referring to the Ondangwa case, heard by the Appellate Division on appeal from what was then South West Africa, Loots says it was a great pity the courts did not follow that precedent. Instead, they have ruled that Ondangwa dealt with life and liberty. When issues of less gravity are at stake, the courts will not relax the rule on standing.

"With the Ondangwa case as precedent, the courts could have, since 1975, developed public interest actions as has been allowed in India. We would have had a significant start on that country, because India only began allowing such actions in the 1980s. In India the courts were committed to the idea and immediately began building up a body of law on the subject. Our

Lessons from the KTC case

Legal consultant **RICHARD ROSENTHAL,** reflects on what can be learnt from the KTC squatters' action against the state

THERE are several lessons to be learnt from the cases where more than 3 000 people from KTC squatter camp sued the state for damages infliced by the police and *"witdoeke"* (see above).

First, there is an urgent need for law reform so large numbers of people can bring class actions. The whole communities can obtain redress for wrongs they have experienced without the enormous obstacles to legal action which now exist.

Under existing law in this country no such remedy exists. For example, in the KTC case, each of the 3 200 individuals had to instruct their own lawyer, issue a separate summons and prove all the facts in each claim. In cases like this where a large number of people are involved, it entails enormous duplication of cost and effort. The unlimited resources of the state and the strict (and often unfair) time limits imposed on anyone wanting to sue the state, mean that legal action for an injustice is often practically impossible.

Secondly, we learnt how important technology and computers can be in cases like this.

In the KTC story, computers were used at all stages of the operation — to collate particulars of the individuals making claims, then to produce thousands of summonses and other court papers, and then to collate data and to cross-reference facts. None of this would have been possible with old-fashioned typewriters.

The KTC case also showed the importance of liaison betwen those directly involved in providing legal services and other members of the legal profession willing to help. In all, some 27 private legal firms helped the Legal Resources Centre issue summonses and handle individual court cases.

In the settlement phase, we learnt the important role that members of the financial community can play: given the current level of crime, any attempt to centralise cash payments at a given time and place would have invited theft and intimidation. The KTC trustees never handled cash payments. Successful claimants were given individual cheques which could be cashed, with proper ID, at any branch of Nedbank, and others were given savings passbooks by the Perm which they could cash or keep. No money was directly handled outside of the banking system. It worked so well that there was only one — unsuccessful — attempt at cheque fraud.

A further lesson was the need to establish excellent communication with the community whose members are making the claims. Legal action is incomprehensible and time-consuming to ordinary people.

Great efforts were made by the Legal Resources Centre (during litigation) and later by the trustees (during the settlement process), to set up a fully representative liaison committee which met regularly to receive information, give advice and obtain client authority.

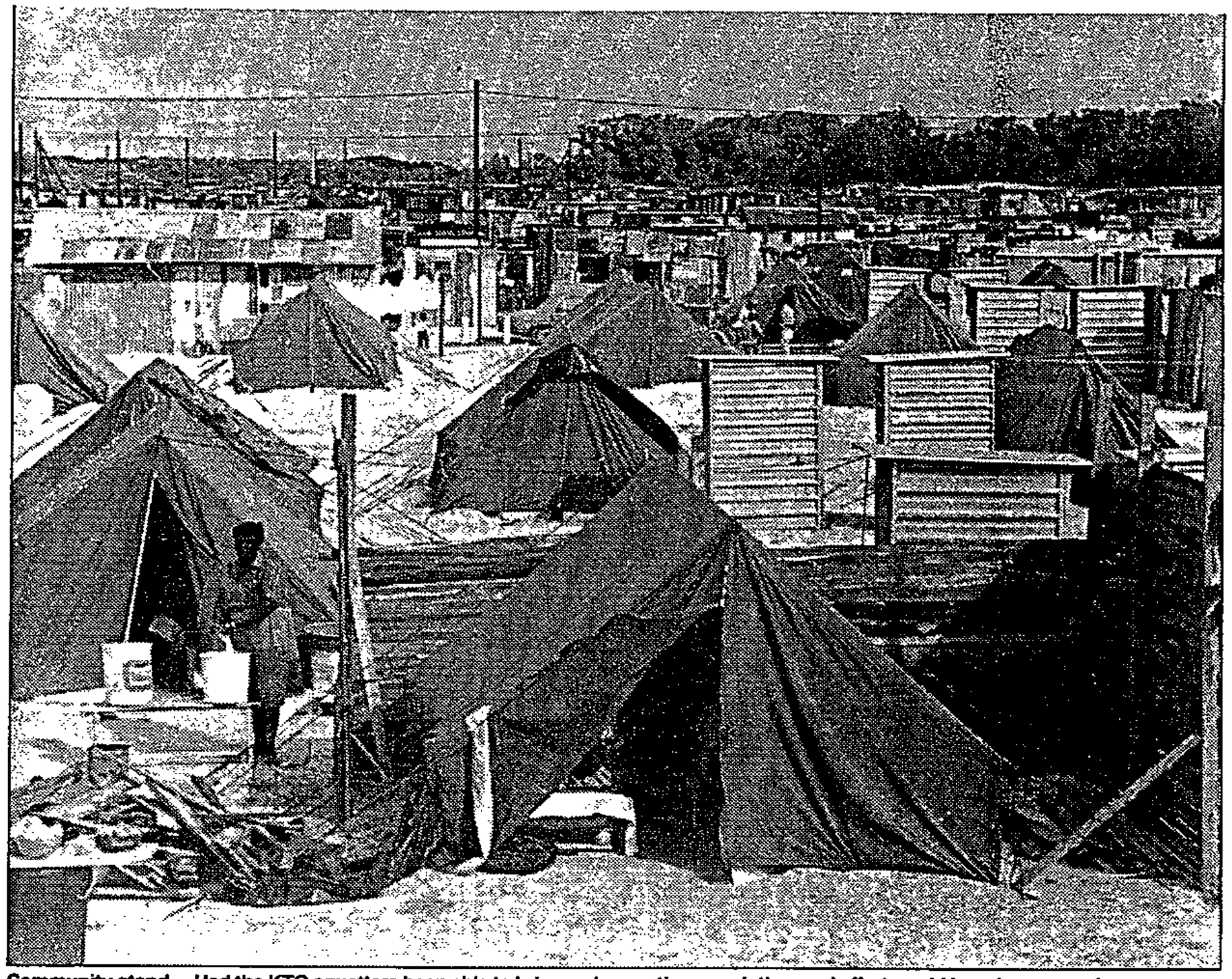
Finally, the KTC story shows what a difference the services of high quality professionals can make to poor communities. Too often, such communities have been prejudiced by poor services. Particularly when the circumstances are momentous, when the defendants are agents of the state, when the victims are poor and often illiterate, it is essential that the professional team be made up of people with skill and commitment.

The team in this case — the advocates, attorneys, trustees, community liaison team and everyone involved on behalf of the KTC community — showed courage, skill and commitment.

In 1986 it was no mean thing to bring formal allegations in court accusing the police and defence force of complicity in criminal conduct involving the deliberate destruction of thousands of homes.

Ultimately the settlement, which involved the payment by the state of R2-million, was the vindication of the truth of these allegations — despite formal disavowals of culpability — and of the success and achievement of this unique court proceeding.

As the chairman of the trust, Peter Bieber, said: "We hope the trust played some small part in making reparation for past wrongs and in helping achieve a more caring society, built on values including security of tenure, protection from abuse of power by the authorities, access to legal remedies through the courts, and a sense of fairness and compassion towards the less fortunate members of society struggling to establish a decent life for themselves and their families."



Community stand ... Had the KTC squatters been able to bring a class action, much time and effort would have been saved

Goldstone to probe Crossroads violence

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN, Political Staff

A COMMITTEE of the Goldstone Commission is to hold a public inquiry into violence in the squatter settlement of Crossroads, today described as the scene of the worst violence in the Western Cape.

Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, chairman of the commission investigating violence and intimidation, said the inquiry would begin in Cape Town on July 2 under the chairmanship of former Attorney-General Niel Rossouw.

Mr Justice Goldstone said continuing violence, resulting in widespread damage, injuries and deaths, had caused increasing general concern.

The violence and culture of intimidation was hampering law enforcement and efforts at peace-brokering.

"In common with a number of bodies actively engaged in dispute resolution and mediation, the commission believes it has become necessary to hold a public inquiry."

The committee's terms of reference were to inquire into the nature and causes of the violence and intimidation, whether any acts of violence or intimidation were committed to achieve a politial aim, who was involved and what could be done about it.

Mr Justice Goldstone said the commission called on the communities of the strife-torn areas to remain calm, stop confrontational conduct and support peace negotiations.

Western Cape regional peace committee chairman Professor Jaap Durand said today Crossroads was the scene of the worst violence in the Western Cape and the situation was "volatile".

The peace committee was holding an urgent meeting in Bellville today.

He said it had been reported that this year at least 41 people had been murdered, including several policemen, there had been 60 arson attacks, 53 attempted murders and more than 100 armed attacks in Crossroads.

He said the committee had information indicating that in the past few months more than 400 people had been directly affected by acts of political or criminal violence.

At least 130 of them were children.

He said the violence had displaced 105 people and many others had packed up and left the settlement.

The ANC in the Western Cape had not succeeded in ending the violence and neither had the local peace committee.

Professor Durand said while many things were unclear, it appeared the Cape Provincial Administration's upgrading of parts of Crossroads was a major bone of contention between warring factions.

"This again relates to the scarcity of land in the region to accommodate all the people."

Professor Durand said he hoped today's meeting, attended by squatter leaders, the police, Cape Town Mayor Frank van der Velde, Mr Rossouw of the Goldstone Commission and members of political organisations, would work towards public acknowledgement of the crisis in Crossroads.

Among squatter leaders at the meeting are Mr Christopher Toise, who has been toppled as leader of the Brown's Farm settlement, and Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, the Crossroads leader who has been blamed for much of the conflict.

● Anyone with relevant information is asked to submit it in writing to the Legal Officer, Private Bag X9120, Cape Town 8000 by Monday, June 28.

Strongman leads his people to peace

■ As controversy continues to rage over the



☐ **WATERING POINT:** Katrina Manuel, 32, collects water from a central tap. Once the Driftsands development is complete, each household will have its own tap, toilet and basin.



Pictures: LEON MÜLLER, Weekend Argus.

☐ **SINGALONG:** The children of the Driftsands creche sing along with teachers, from left, Debra Ndzunge, Primrose Sihlali and Priscilla Hamza. The building in the background houses 107 children from babies to pre-school pupils.

Trauma devours squatters

307 19/6/93

307 ARGT 19/6/93

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Political Staff

■ Nine out of 10 Crossroads residents examined by a psychologist suffer from acute symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

CROSSROADS is a community at war with itself and a settlement where residents are too afraid to go to work, according to Mr Tom Winslow of the newly opened Trauma Centre.

Many squatters suffer from extreme psychological distress because of the violence, he told the Western Cape Regional Peace Committee-convened meeting on Crossroads yesterday.

Mr Winslow said most of the settlement's residents had lost all their possessions and were in desperate need of food, clothing, blankets and medicine.

"They continue to live in constant fear of attacks."

Because of the violence, food deliveries to Crossroads had been stopped, health services curtailed, children were afraid or unable to attend school, workers were unable to go to work and refugees had been forced to live in new unserviced areas with poor sanitation and little infrastructure.

"All of these factors point to a crisis that poses significant health risks for the victims of violence in Crossroads."

Mr Winslow said the Trauma Centre was gravely concerned about the large numbers of people, particularly children and the elderly, showing symptoms of severe trauma and emotional distress well beyond what was normal.

"A psychologist working in our team examined ten victims of violence from Crossroads and diagnosed nine as suffering acute symptoms of post traumatic stress.

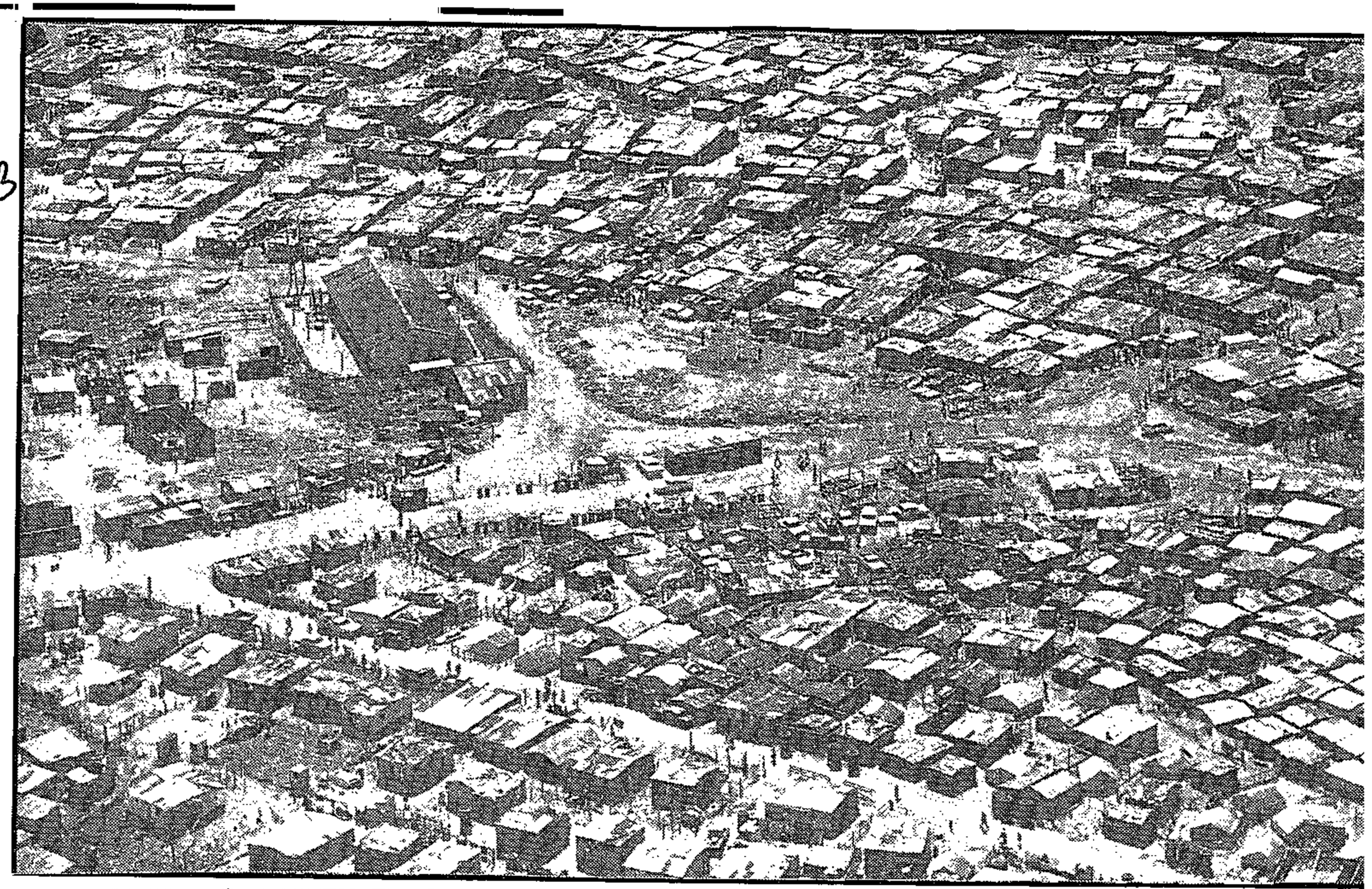
"We need peace in Crossroads before there can be effective healing."

A spokesman for the Network of Independent Monitors, Mr John Oliver, sounded a grim warning that it might be too late to save Crossroads.

"There's not much left of Crossroads. Whoever's best interest is served by the clearing of the area seems to be on the road to success."

He said it was generally acknowledged that there appeared to be a weakness in the ANC leadership in Crossroads.

"The community is at a loss as to why the ANC has not shown a greater interest by strengthening its leadership and uniting its followers."



□ **MAZE OF MISERY:** The Crossroads informal settlement racked by endemic violence and hunger.

30 guns could give police a lead in Crossroads

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Political Staff

POLICE may be on the verge of a breakthrough in the Crossroads conflict after confiscating 30 firearms in the trouble-stricken settlement.

Colonel Leonard Knipe, commander of the violent crime investigation unit, told a Western Cape regional peace committee meeting on Crossroads yesterday that ballistic tests were being conducted on the confiscated guns.

"We should wait for the outcome of that examination."

Earlier, police came under flak from delegates for allegedly taking sides in the conflict, not helping residents and being unable to arrest alleged killers.

But Colonel Knipe said police would present evidence, if necessary, of policemen "of all shades and colours" being laughed at and vilified by residents while trying to extinguish shack fires with their bare hands.

"It's clear from what has been said at this meeting that it's not only the police having difficulties in working in Crossroads. Even the ANC does."

He said police had undertaken to repo back within 24 hours to the Legal R sources Centre on cases brought to their a tention as a result of the organisation's i tervention.

He denied that police were partia "Some of our blood has been spilt in tl sands of Crossroads."

Though he rejected claims of police pa tiality, Colonel Knipe said individual p licemen could have been involved.

"They will be identified to the best of ou ability and brought before the courts."

Squatters say no to Du Noon

Source 19/6 - 23/6/93



ENRAGED: One of the Marconi Beam squatters who delivered a memorandum of demands to Milnerton municipality

By Sabata Ngcai (307)

HUNDREDS of angry Marconi Beam squatters marched to the Milnerton municipal offices on Wednesday to oppose their proposed removal to Du Noon.

Despite the high profile given to the squatter issue recently, this was the first time Marconi Beam residents had publicly demonstrated their opposition to the move since the municipality proposed the idea two years ago.

The squatters handed a memorandum to the municipality demanding that all proposed developments for Du Noon should be implemented at Marconi Beam.

The municipality had proposed to upgrade Du Noon by providing, among other things, street lighting, tarred roads and clinics.

Other demands by the squatters included draining stagnant water at Marconi Beam, that each household have a toilet, that toilets be cleaned and serviced regularly, that rubbish dumps be removed immediately and that the government make funds available for housing.

Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber, who received the memorandum, said he would refer the demands to a council meeting on June 24.

The squatters and the municipality have been at a stalemate since the proposed move was made public.

Marconi Beam residents are resisting the move because they believe the decision was taken unilaterally by the municipality.

Another reason is that Du Noon is far from their places of employment and they would be forced to spend more money on transport to work. Marconi Beam is about 11km from Du Noon.

"The people of Marconi Beam will not be moved from where they are," said ANC spokesperson Mr Phillip Rasmeni at the march.

Rasmeni said people who wanted to move to Du Noon or remain in Marconi Beam should be allowed to do so.

However, he said the ANC opposed the proposal that people be forced to move to Du Noon because the area had been unilaterally chosen by the Milnerton municipality.

Let us live where we choose, squatters demand

PEOPLE should be free to live wherever they choose, Marconi Beam residents said this week.

The squatters were responding to allegations made by Table View residents that if Marconi Beam residents were moved to Du Noon there would be an increase in the crime rate in the area.

While the squatters oppose the plan to move the whole community to Du Noon, they also disagree with people who are trying to bar them from the area. (307)

Table View residents marched to the police station last week to oppose the removal of squatters to Du Noon.

"They are reviving the old Afrikanerdom system," said Mr Siphiwo Matu. He said at Marconi Beam they had white people as their neighbours and they were living together in peace and harmony.

Mr Terrence Mhlangatshoba said the Table View residents who opposed the upgrading of Du Noon were "enemies of democracy" who still clung to the crumbling "old apartheid system".

Mrs Lydia Ntaka said the residents of Marconi Beam were in the area to stay.

"People are free to live wherever they choose, whether others like it or not," she said.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

SQUATTER SPREAD: Informal settlements bordering the N2 feature minifarms and shacks next to formal housing. To the right of the road is Airport Industria, where business people are worried about security if there is more uncontrolled squatting.

Vacant land — warning on 'squatter wars'

ARG 22/6/93 (307)

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

WARS in squatter camps on the Cape Flats could force people to swamp vacant land in the Milnerton-Atlantis area.

This is the warning from Provincial Administration deputy director-general Mr Carel du Preez.

As the squatter crisis grows, with violence plaguing Crossroads and little hope of jobs for thousands, millions of rands will be needed annually to cope with the backlog of serviced sites.

Internal migration of informal settlers in the Western Cape was often caused by people being "sick and tired" of violence in areas such as strife-torn Crossroads, said Mr Du Preez.

A guide plan for the Peninsula had identified land in the northern part of the metropole as most suitable for expansion.

But it was hoped job opportunities could be developed "where the people are" — in the south-eastern part of the metropole, on the Cape Flats.

An example of development potential was the Philippi node, which offered an area the size of the Cape Town central business district.

But the level of confidence among industrialists was low.

"The more you have land invasions, the more jobs fall by the wayside."

The Provincial Administration was trying to encourage councils to take responsiblity for informal settlers within their boundaries.

The idea had had a mixed reception among Peninsula councils.

Du Noon 'secrecy' row

BOT CT 24/6/93

Municipal Reporter

A ROW has erupted between the Concerned Residents and Voters of Table View (Cravot) and the Milnerton town council over a secret council debate on the Du Noon squatter camp.

The item has been placed on the "green", or confidential section, of the agenda for a council meeting this week.

Cravot spokesman Mr Chris Potgieter said his organisation would "hit the roof" if Du Noon was taken back onto green paper.

"This goes against the tendency towards transparency in government," he said.

Town clerk Mr Peter Gerber confirmed that the Du Noon item had been transferred to green paper.

Milnerton town council announced in its annual budget last night that it had to increase its income derived from property rates by about 7,5%.

The council's operating budget is R55,5 million. The capital budget is R13m, with R2m of it going to the development of Du Noon resettlement camp.

Yengeni flees Crossroads

307
CT 25/6/93

'He is the dog that is killing us'

By RAMOTENA MABOTE

AFRICAN National Congress Regional secretary Mr Tony Yengeni was yesterday forced to flee Crossroads when death threats were made against him by supporters of squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

The incident took place during a tour of the violence-ridden township by 20 clergymen.

The tour was organised by the Western Province Council of Churches (WPCC) and the Western Cape Regional Peace Committee.

The large motorcade had just entered Section Four, Mr Nongwe's stronghold, when youths identified Mr Yengeni.

Mr Yengeni got out of his car and was intervening in a confrontation between a taxi driver and traffic officers when youths, carrying an assortment of weapons including knifes, knobkerries, and pangas, said:

"Here is the dog that is killing us, we must also kill him", "he must not leave Crossroads alive", and "these people think that they can rule us".

Seeing that Mr Yengeni was not aware of the danger looming, and that the situation was getting tense, civic leader Mr Johnson Mpukumpa told Mr Yengeni to drive off immediately, which he did.

Members of WPCC and the Western Province RPC then decided to leave the area and proceed to lower Crossroads, the new section to where victims of violence in Section Four have fled.

Speaking to the clergy, Mr Nongwe thanked them for coming to Crossroads to see for themselves what was taking place.

WPCC chairman Dr Sean Govender told Mr Nongwe and the new residents of Lower Crossroads that the church would do everything within its power to combat the violence in the area and to ensure that a solution is found soon.

Later, the clergy joined a group of more than 100 women of Crossroads at St George's Cathedral, where a prayer meeting was held for peace and quiet in the area.

The women, "Mothers of Crossroads", called on all women of the Western Cape to help them root out the problems of the squatter area for the sake of the children.

ANC regional chairman Dr Allan Boesak said that the ANC had pledged to deal with all those leaders in Crossroads who claimed to be members of the ANC while being implicated in the violence.

Dr Boesak also called on residents of the city, the southern and nothern suburbs, to stop holding prayer meetings in the city, but to go to Crossroads itself.

He said that if there was no peace in Crossroads there could not be peace in Cape Town.



TENSE TOUR ... Squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe addresses Methodist Bishop James Gribble during a peace tour of Crossroads by clergymen yesterday. Mr Tony Yengeni of the ANC had to flee as Mr Nongwe's supporters threatened to kill him. Picture: STEWART COLMAN

Crossroads paper spreads news of hope

South 26/6 – 30/6/93

By Edwina Booysen

REPAIRING the shattered community of Crossroads is the aim of a new newspaper being distributed in the squatter camp.

The newspaper, called "Crossroads — Action for Peace and Justice", hopes to repair the breakdown of communications within the community. It is published by the Western Cape Regional Peace Committee (WCRPC).

In the past few months conflict in Crossroads has claimed at least 41 lives, involved more than 100 armed attacks and left at least 105 families homeless.

Chairperson of the WCRPC, Professor Jaap Durand, said that to bring healing to Crossroads and build a true community the process that leads to peace and justice needs to be transparent.

"This publication is for the people of Crossroads — all the people. Should the community wish this publishing initiative to continue we would like to know that," Durand said.

"With enough interest and support we will facilitate the creation of constructive communication channels."

Published in two languages, English and Xhosa, articles in the paper detail the ongoing conflict in Crossroads.

According to "Crossroads", the community does not trust the police. Among the reasons stated for this was that "police are not impartial when they react and/or respond during incidents of violence".

The paper also alleges that police "seem reluctant" to go into the area during times of trouble. "Crossroads" says residents have language and communication problems, caused by the fact that "most, if not all officers they have to deal with" are white or coloured.

In response to the allegations, a spokesperson for the South African Police, Colonel Leonard Knipe, said police were also traumatised by the violence.

Apart from informative articles detailing the history of the conflict and development initiatives in the area, "Crossroads" also features advertisements by the majority of the organisations negotiating for peace in the area.

Among these are the ANC, the South African National Civic Organisation, the Western Cape United Squatters Association, the Network of Independent Monitors and the Trauma Centre for Victims of Violence and Torture.

y, June 25 1993

Du Noon meet gatecrashed

(307)
ct 25/6/93

Interdict against Meiring

By DALE GRANGER

ANGRY members of the Concerned Residents and Voters of Table View (Cravot) gatecrashed a Milnerton town council meeting last night to protest against a decision to hold a debate, in secret, on the Du Noon squatter issue.

Cravot members heckled town clerk Mr Pieter Gerber, shouting "coward" and "no backbone" after Mr Gerber announced that the council had voted to heed legal advice to suspend the debate on the issue as notice had been received of an interdict currently being brought against Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring and the Milnerton Town Council.

'Urgent interdict'

The urgent application was being brought by the ratepayers associations of Table View, Richwood and Bothasig and the farmers' associations of Malmesbury, Durbanville and Philadelphia as well as by individual farmers.

The pending interdict seeks to halt all council decisions taken thusfar relating to the Du Noon squatter issue and the proposed plan to resettle Marconi Beam squatters in the area.

About 10 Cravot members, the press and public were ordered out of chambers for about fifteen minutes before being allowed back in to hear the decision.

Before the meeting a row had erupted between Cravot and the town council over the decision by the council to place the debate on "green paper", taken to mean that the debate would have taken place in secret.

Milnerton deputy mayor Mr R Hulley refused to discuss the topic yesterday afternoon.

Town councillor Mrs I Hutchison, however, called the decision "a load of rubbish" and said an attempt would be made to "get it onto white".

It was reliably learned that the council was due to debate the provision of housing for squatters at Du Noon, but decided to keep the "sensitive issue" secret to avoid raising squatter's expectations and "false hopes".

'Threats'

Cravot spokesman Mr Chris Potgieter called the council's "green paper" decision a "bureaucratic blunder" and said the interdict gave the association a "ray of hope".

He said Cravot was campaigning for a local referendum on the Du Noon issue.

● Efforts to contact Milnerton town clerk Mr Pieter Gerber failed last night when it was learned that due to threatening telephone calls he received he could no longer be contacted by phone.

Du Noon guns come out firing

(307)

ARG 25/6/93

CLIVE SAWYER
Weekend Argus Reporter

IMMINENT legal proceedings against the Provincial Administration and Milnerton Town Council prompted the cancellation yesterday of a joint Press conference on the Du Noon development.

Topics at the conference were to have included an overview of urbanisation in greater Cape Town, environmental issues, and safety measures for the N7 and Potsdam Road.

Speakers were to have included CPA community services, nature conservation and land development chiefs, as well as Milnerton officials and consulting engineers.

Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber declined to comment on the cancellation, saying the matter was sub judice.

Mr Carel du Preez, provincial administration deputy director-general of commmunity services, released a statement shortly after the cancellation outlining CPA policy on urbanisation.

It was one of the CPA's principal functions to help — and where no other option existed, to carry out — land development for black communities, he said.

The CPA also was part of a "line of authority" responsible for preventing disorderly and illegal settlement.

Local authorities should attend to these two responsibilities, he said.

"Milnerton heeded our call and took full responsibility for managing the process of finding solutions for the unsatisfactory situation at the Marconi Beam settlement."

A solution had to be found in the northern part of the region because people could not be expected to commute to work in Milnerton from Phillipi or Khayelitsha. Costs were more than the poor could afford.

Milnerton already had more than 24 percent of vacant industrial land in greater Cape Town by 1988.

"There can be no doubt Milnerton is a major player in respect of economic opportunities, and will play an even greater part in future.

"We must, therefore, face the reality that low-income people be accommodated in this area, and that more land will have to be identified for longer-term development."

The provincial administration remained convinced that the proposed Du Noon development was the best option.

"We cannot continue forcing poor people to travel great distances in search of economic opportunities.

"We cannot close our eyes tc the needs of the poor. By shutting them out, we make enemies of them, we invite conflict and we'll end up in a no-win situation."

Plea to make room for poor

ST Times GC Metro
2/16/93

By DIANA STREAK

THE people of Cape Town cannot close their eyes to the needs of the poor, says deputy director-general of community services Mr Carel du Preez of an application for a court order preventing the Cape Provincial Administration and Milnerton Town Council from going ahead with the Du Noon informal settlement.

A joint press conference was cancelled on Friday because of "imminent legal proceedings".

Mr Du Preez said that by shutting out the poor "we make enemies of them, we invite conflict and we'll end up in a no-win situation".

"We should accommodate the realities of urbanisation in a balanced way by creating structures for constructive discussion.

"We should reach out to communities where poverty is the greatest enemy and resources are very limited."

The Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View, CRAVOT, which supported the court application, said it had been refused permission to hold an open meeting at Table View High School Hall because it was "too political".

Document

The meeting is to be held instead at the Leibrandt van Niekerk Hall on June 30.

The Du Noon site was earmarked as the most suitable for the resettlement of squatters in the area, particularly those from the Marconi Beam site near the Milnerton Racecourse.

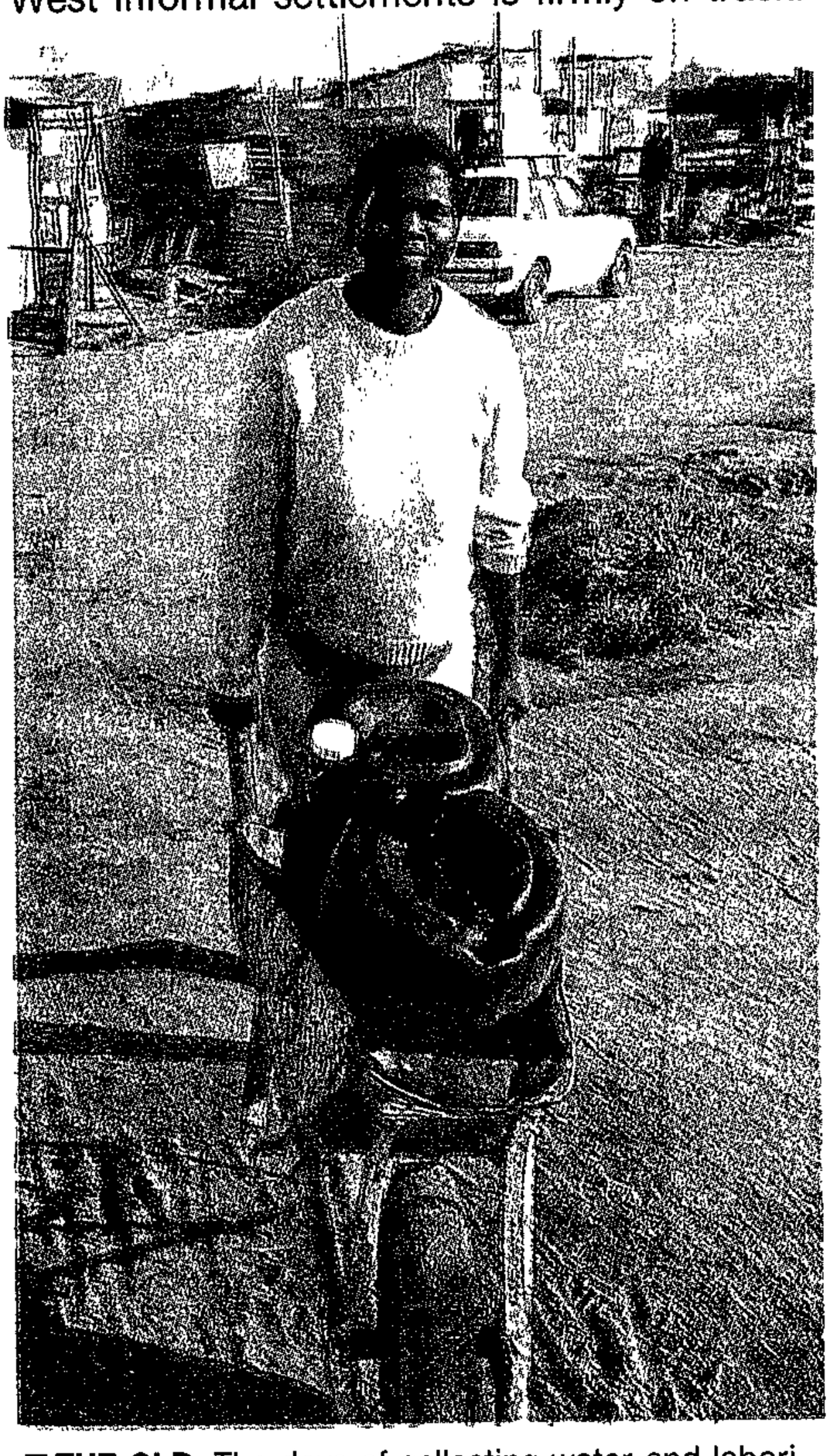
According to a document produced for the Milnerton Municipality by the Planning Partnership in 1991, the council decided that the Marconi Beam site could not be considered a possible site because of its value.

Moving in

ARG 26/6/93

■ In its effort to meet the demand for land for squatters, the Cape Provincial Administration's plan to resettle the people of Somerset West informal settlements is firmly on track.

307



□ **THE OLD:** The days of collecting water and laboriously getting it home will be over when the Waterkloof squatters move to their serviced sites at the new settlement near the Strand.

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

PLANS to upgrade the squatter communities of Waterkloof and Die Bos, near Somerset West, will see nearly 2 000 families moving to new, serviced sites early next year.

Development, which was delayed recently first due to unrest and then by heavy rains which hampered construction, is now back on track although the "occupation date" is expected to be delayed.

Mr Alie Killian, associate of project co-ordinators Hill Kaplan Scott, visited the new site near the Strand with Weekend Argus and said the people would start moving in by the end of next January at the latest.

The move is being conducted with the full support of the communities involved and the new development is a labour-based community project which sees the squatters being trained and employed in the construction process.

"We are teaching them block-making and then they are employed to build their own toilets. That way we will be leaving some skills behind in the community," Mr Killian said.

Meanwhile, the squatters are being kept abreast of developments through an information centre which has been set up in the Waterkloof community. "The centre opened in May to keep the communities informed as regards the progress of the development and all aspects relating to the move and



the allocation of the serviced sites," said Mr Faan Naude, regional director of the Cape Provincial Administration's community services, Western Cape.

He said the people themselves would decide on the actual site allocations and a subcommittee would be formed to handle the move. Those on the committee would include rep-

ARG 26/6/93 (307)

by January



Pictures: LEON MULLER

□ BUILDING BLOCKS: Patrick Tshetu, left, and Aubrey Nobathna, squatters from the Waterkloof settlement near Somerset West, have been trained to make blocks to build the toilets at the new serviced sites.

resentatives of the municipalities of the Strand, Somerset West and Lwandle, as well as the CPA, Western Cape United Squatters' Association and the project co-ordinators.

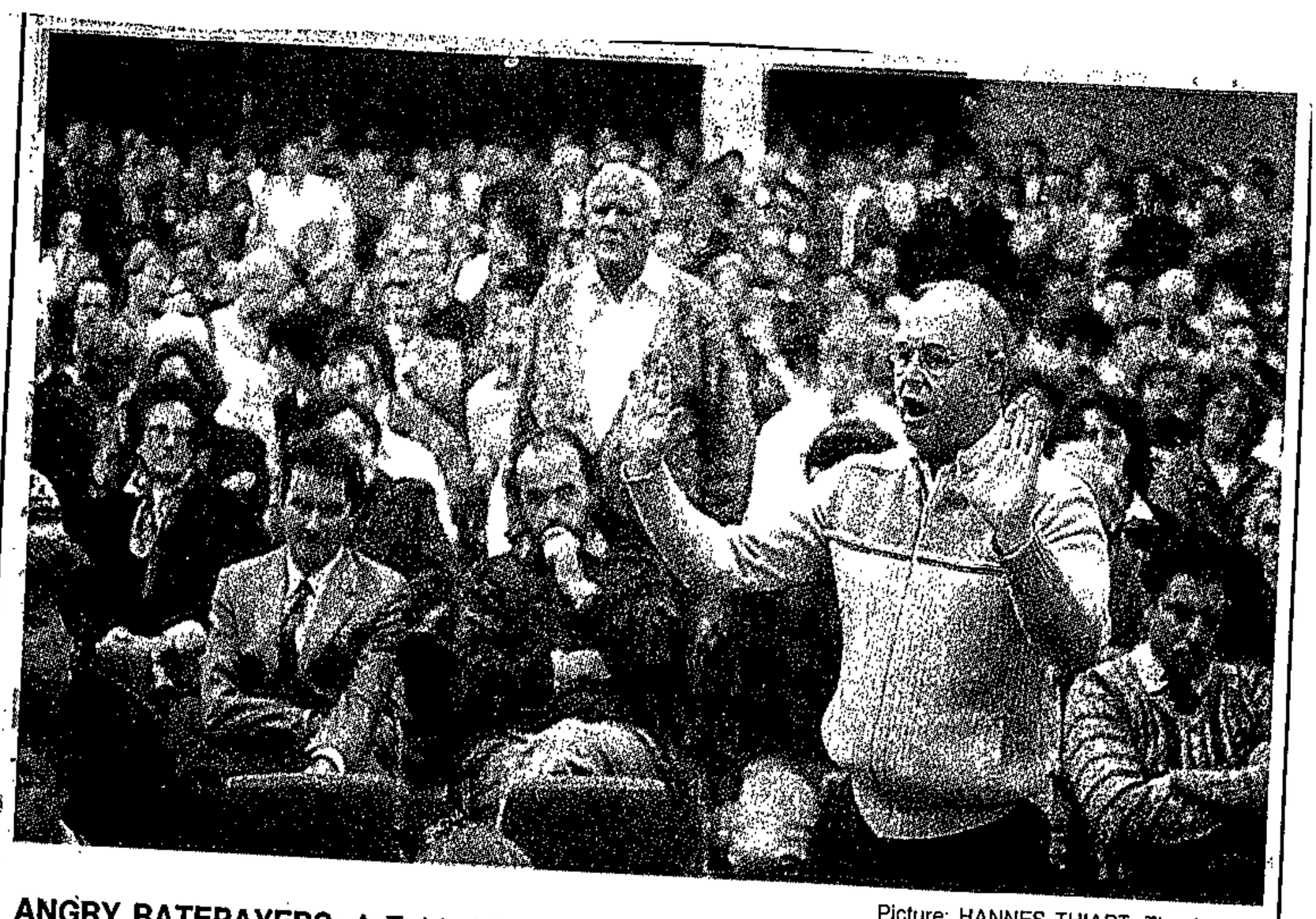
Development of the new 64 ha site west of Lwandle and south of the N2, which has still to be named, is being conducted in two phases. The first comprises 1 039 sites and the second 800 sites, with an average size of 175 square metres.

Half the stormwater drains, water and sewere pipes have been installed for the first phase and tenders for the second phase have closed.

The layout plan, says Mr Naude, provides for community, business and church sites along with the residential sites, which means land has been set aside for a community hall and several creches.

"A community liaison officer has been appointed to help the communities establish a social infrastructure and his function will be to determine the needs and priorities of these communities.

"In this way, requirements will be addressed at grassroots level," he said.



ANGRY RATEPAYERS: A Table View resident fires a question at the chairman during a meeting of Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View last night where more than 1 000 people decided on a rates boycott to protest against the Du Noon plan.

Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

Table View residents vote for rates boycott

APGT 7/93

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☐ Angry ratepayers protest against Du Noon plan

Staff Reporter

TABLE View residents are to withhold their rates from Milnerton municipality in protest against plans for an informal settlement at Du Noon.

More than 1 000 people who attended a Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot) meeting last night decided to pay their rates into a trust account and to take more mass action against the municipality.

Planned are a march on July 17 and mass attendance at the next Milnerton Town Council meeting.

Cravot members were told of the resignation of their chairman, Mr Danie van der Heever, because of his decision to join the Inkatha Freedom Party and to fight future battles on political lines.

The Cravot committee wanted the organisation to remain apolitical and Mr Van der Heever chose to resign.

The new chairman, Mr Chris Potgieter, told members if they all took action and refused to pay rates, it would be "very difficult" for the municipality to take residents to court.

Mr Potgieter said the municipality had been told of plans to withhold rates and had responded that it would be illegal and could prejudice ratepayers severely.

"They threatened that non-payment could result in the withdrawal of the right to pay in instalments and immediate payment of full accounts could be demanded.

"The municipality also said legal costs could be recoverable from the defaulters."

Table View Ratepayers Association chairman Mr Noel Jennings said it was essential that the 11 parties who were applying today for a Supreme Court interdict against the Cape Provincial Administration and the Milnerton municipality on the Du Noon issue succeeded.

"If we lose the Du Noon issue, the entire structure plan for the development of squatter sites from Table View all the way up to Melkbosstrand will come into operation."

Court battle over Du Noon begins

(307)

ARG 1/7/93

JOHN VILJOEN, Staff Reporter

A SUPREME Court battle over the Du Noon squatter settlement began today.

Three ratepayers' associations, two farmers' associations, a farming partnership and five owners of land neighbouring the Du Noon site brought an application against the Administrator of the Cape and the Milnerton municipality.

When the hearing began Mr Justice Rose-Innes described it as "an extraordinarily important case".

The Du Noon issue was a fundamental dispute between authorities and a large portion of the public, he said.

The applicants are seeking a court order declaring that implementation of the Administrator's designation of Du Noon for squatters will create a public nuisance which will interfere with their private rights.

They seek an order interdicting and restraining the Administrator and the municipality from implementing plans to settle squatters at Du Noon.

The court is being asked to order the Administrator and the Milnerton municipality to take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the settlement of squatters at Du Noon.

The court is also asked to review and set aside the decision to eliminate the Marconi Beam squatter camp as a possible site for a permanent settlement. The applicants also want the municipality's decision to opt for the Du Noon site set aside.

The applicants have asked for leave to subpoena four police officers who declined to supply affidavits.

The applicants are seeking a temporary order which will have effect until the matter can be heard on November 23.

Du Noon: Hold on settlement

30/1/93

Supreme Court Reporter

SETTLEMENT of people at the Du Noon site will not take place pending the hearing of an application two ratepayers' associations and others on November 23 brought against the CPA and the Milnerton Municipality.

This was the order made yesterday by Mr Justice L A Rose-Innes — by consent between the parties — in an application brought by the Richwood Ratepayers' Association, the Table View Ratepayers' Association, the Durbanville, Philadelphia and Malmesbury Farmers' associations, a partnership and five propery owners.

In papers, Mr Stanley Gordon le Brun, owner of a property adjacent to the site, said on 23 April this year the CPA purported to designate Du Noon for the less formal settlement of "homeless persons".

Prior to this Du Noon was privately owned farms, a quarry and a construction yard.

On June 11 the Milnerton Municipality set out its proposals for Du Noon. It was the intention of the CPA and the municipality to resettle Marconi Beam squatters at Du Noon, Mr Le Brun said.

The CPA's designation of Du Noon as a less formal settlement was reviewable in law and stood to be corrected, he said.

The Marconi Beam site deserved full consideration because it was established in 1989/1990 and was a reality which will remain in place while Du Noon would simply create a second problem of much larger proportions.

The community was unwilling to move, he said.

It appeared the true reason for the elimination of Marconi Beam was a desire by the municipality to meet the objections of its ratepayers against the presence of squatters at the site.

Surrounding properties were open land and once Du Noon had been fully settled, the settlement will "inevitably" spill over into surrounding areas.

Mr C Y Louw, SC, Mr S A Jordaan and Mr G D Roux, instructed by Adrie Brand of De Klerk and Van Gend, appeared for the applicants. Mr R Hiemstra, instructed by the state attorney, appeared for th CPA. Mr R D McClarty, instructed by Mr Roy Ande son of Findlay and Tait, appeared for the municipa ity.

R9m paid for settlement land

Staff Reporter

LAND purchases for the establishment of the contraversial Du Noon informal settlement cost the CPA more than R9 million, the Cape Times has learnt.

A document in possession of the Cape Times shows under the heading "purchased outright" that three purchases were made for R400 000, R2 920 000 and R1 500 000, which, with legal fees of R12 300, totalled R4 832 300.

Under the heading "land expropriated" three transactions were recorded: Shell Annandale, R3 130 000, Quarries, R280 000 and Chang, R890 000. With attorneys fees of R107 600 it came to R4 407 600, giving a total of R9 239 900.

A spokesman for the Adminstrator, when asked for comment, said there was a sub judice rule.

The CPA cannot divulge transactions with landowners, and prices it paid for property were determined through valuations by independent, private valuers.

Settlement at Du Noon delayed by court order

(307) AR42/11/93

Hearing over heated squatter camp issue in November

JOHN VILJOEN
Staff Reporter

NO squatters will be settled at the Du Noon site until after a Supreme Court hearing in November.

The parties waging a legal battle over the controversial settlement agreed to this yesterday and it was made an order of court.

An application for an interdict against the Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring and the Milnerton municipality to stop the proposed settlement was brought yesterday, but postponed by agreement to November 23.

The Richwood, Table View and Durbanville ratepayers' associations, the Philadelphia and Malmesbury farmers' associations, the Mellish Brothers farming partnership and five property owners are opposing plans to settle squatters at Du Noon.

The Administrator and the municipality undertook not to settle anyone at Du Noon or develop the land pending the outcome of the November hearing.

Mr Justice Rose-Innes described the case as "extraordinarily important". The issue was a fundamental dispute between authorities and a large portion of the public, he said.

Potsdam Road resident Mr Stanley Gordon le Brun, one of the applicants, described the decision to settle squatters at Du Noon as "grossly unreasonable".

In papers he said it would be impossible to control the growth of the settlement.

It would inevitably and unavoidably spill over into the surrounding areas, and eventually there would be no limit to the proliferation of squatters.

The safety of his family would be directly imperiled and he would not be able to sell his property.

The municipality would be unable to keep its pledge to ensure the safety and security of those living in the vicinity and using the routes through it.

The municipality wished to clear the Marconi Beam site of squatters to meet the objections of its ratepayers to the exclusion of all other considerations.

Moving squatters to Du Noon would merely create a problem of greater proportions without having any positive impact on the problems at Marconi Beam.

Mr Le Brun, a land surveyor, said planning was no guarantee the settlement would be orderly.

In spite of being carefully planned, Khayelitsha's population had "mushroomed uncontrollably".

Police had told him that in Khayelitsha violent crime was the order of the day, with adjacent roads unsafe.

In Kraaifontein squatter settlements, crime had reached uncontrollable proportions and police were unable to cope.

Farms and smallholdings had been plundered and three farmers had been "driven off" their land.

With the advent of squatter settlements in Hout Bay, crime immediately became rampant, people feared for their safety and property values declined.

Police he had spoken to had declined to give affidavits but would testify if subpoenaed, Mr Le Brun said.

The applicants are seeking a court order declaring that implementation of the Du Noon plan will create a public nuisance which will interfere with their private rights and restraining the Administrator and the municipality from settling squatters there.

'Nongwe's broken promises sparked violence'

Sowetan 3/7 – 7/7/93

By Sabata Ngcai

CONTROVERSIAL squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe is responsible for the violence in Crossroads, claims one of his former committee members.

Mr Amos Nyhakatyha, who broke away from Nongwe's committee in February, said trouble began when Nongwe could not fulfil his promise to build houses.

When Nongwe took over the squatter leadership from Johnson Ngxobongwana in 1990, he persuaded people from Section One to move to Lower Crossroads in order to prepare land for housing.

He allegedly promised that the people would pay rent of 75 cents a month when houses were built.

The houses would be ready by the end of 1990.

Nongwe allegedly told people to "put a tyre around my neck" if he did not fulfil his promise.

But by the end of 1991 no houses had been built. In October 1992, Nongwe told residents from Sections Two and Three to move to Lower Crossroads.

Residents insisted they were not prepared to move until the houses promised to Section One residents were built.

Reminding him of his "promise", they demanded to put a tyre around his neck.

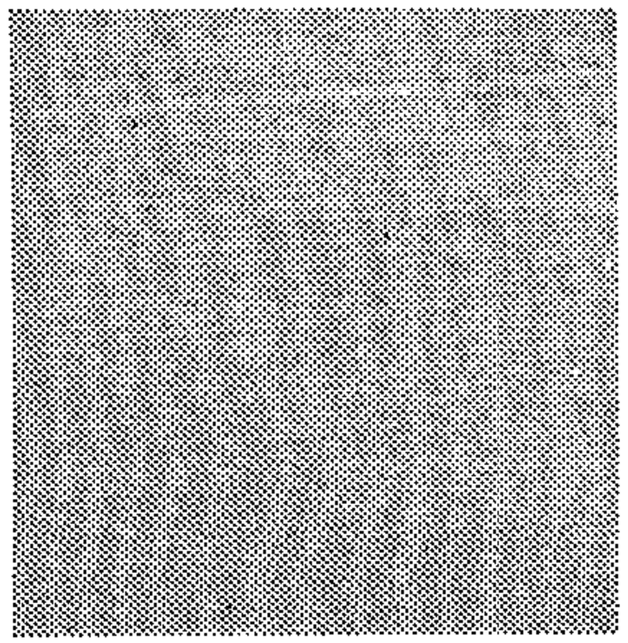
Residents discovered that a contract signed by Nongwe and the Cape Provincial Administration was for servicing the sites only.

It is claimed Nongwe demanded a seven rand a month levy from each of the 80 000 squatter residents since the beginning of 1992.

In January this year, after Nongwe returned from holiday in Transkei, he tried to find out from his men if the Section Two and Three residents still resisted moving.

Nongwe allegedly told his headmen at the January meeting that the residents would be forced to move.

This resulted in some committee members breaking away from his "cabinet".



JEFFREY NONGWE

Nongwe could not be reached for comment by the time of going to press.

More than 40 people have died, hundreds injured, and shacks destroyed since February this year.

"As long as Nongwe, the SADF and the police are still in Crossroads, there will never be peace," Nyhakatyha said.

Police spokesperson Colonel Raymond Dowd dismissed the statement as "untrue".

"If it wasn't the presence of the SADF in Crossroads there would be more violence," he said.

'Road map to democracy'

Sowetan 3/7 – 7/7/93

By Christelle Terreblanche and Sapa

CONSTITUTIONAL negotiating came into its own yesterday when "sufficient consensus" was reached by multiparty negotiators to go ahead with drawing up of an interim constitution for elections.

Fears of another breakdown in talks early on Wednesday were allayed after several bilateral meetings in which major obstacles were overcome.

The deal saw the ANC and the NP concede that both strong regional and national government will feature in the interim constitution, which will continue to bind an elected constitutuent assembly that writes a permanent constitution for South Africa.

Details of the regional powers still need to be thrashed out.

"The road map to democracy has been adopted. Wonderful," Sapa quoted ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa as saying.

The minister of Constitutional Development, Roelf Meyer, added: "Today was probably one of the most important days in the negotiation process so far".

Experts from the technical committees were wary to comment shortly after the compromise, but said it certainly meant major advances had been made.

The compromise brokered on Wednesday means that the boundaries, powers, functions, duties and structures of regions will be finalised by the unelected multiparty forum during the current round of negotiations.

These will then be binding on an elected constitution-making body.

Sources say there will not be a separate national constitution and regional constitutions. Principles for both will be entrenched in a single "list" drawn up by the negotiating council.

The technical committee on constitutional affairs will draw up the interim constitution and hand it to the negotiating council for debate before being endorsed.

Squatters who help themselves

(307)

ARG 3/7/93

Squatters at Millers Camp are doing manual work to provide serviced sites for their community.

Business Editor

COMMUNITY participation has ensured the success of the first labour-intensive township development project of its kind in the Western Cape.

The project started two years ago at Millers Camp — also known as Lusaka — next to Crossroads, within one of the oldest squatter communities in the Cape.

By the end of next month, 550 serviced sites with toilets will have been provided, and most of the work will have been done by the community, using shovels and wheelbarrows instead of of machines.

The R5,5 million development, funded by the Western Cape Regional Services Council (WCRSC) and the National Housing Commission (NHC), started many months earlier with community meetings and negotiations between consulting engineers Hill Kaplan Scott, Ikapa Municipality, Western Cape United Squatters Association (WCUSA) and Millers Camp community leaders.

At these meetings the details and procedures of the project were discussed in detail.

The contract was awarded to the construction company Haw and Inglis.

Mrs Julie Naude, a spokesman for the consultants, said: "Community leaders willingly took part in the project because of the benefits to their constituency, which included properly drained serviced erven with toilets and income-producing jobs for many local men and women."

Members of the community were trained in basic construction and did the work, minimising the use of machines.

Haw and Inglis staff handled the training.

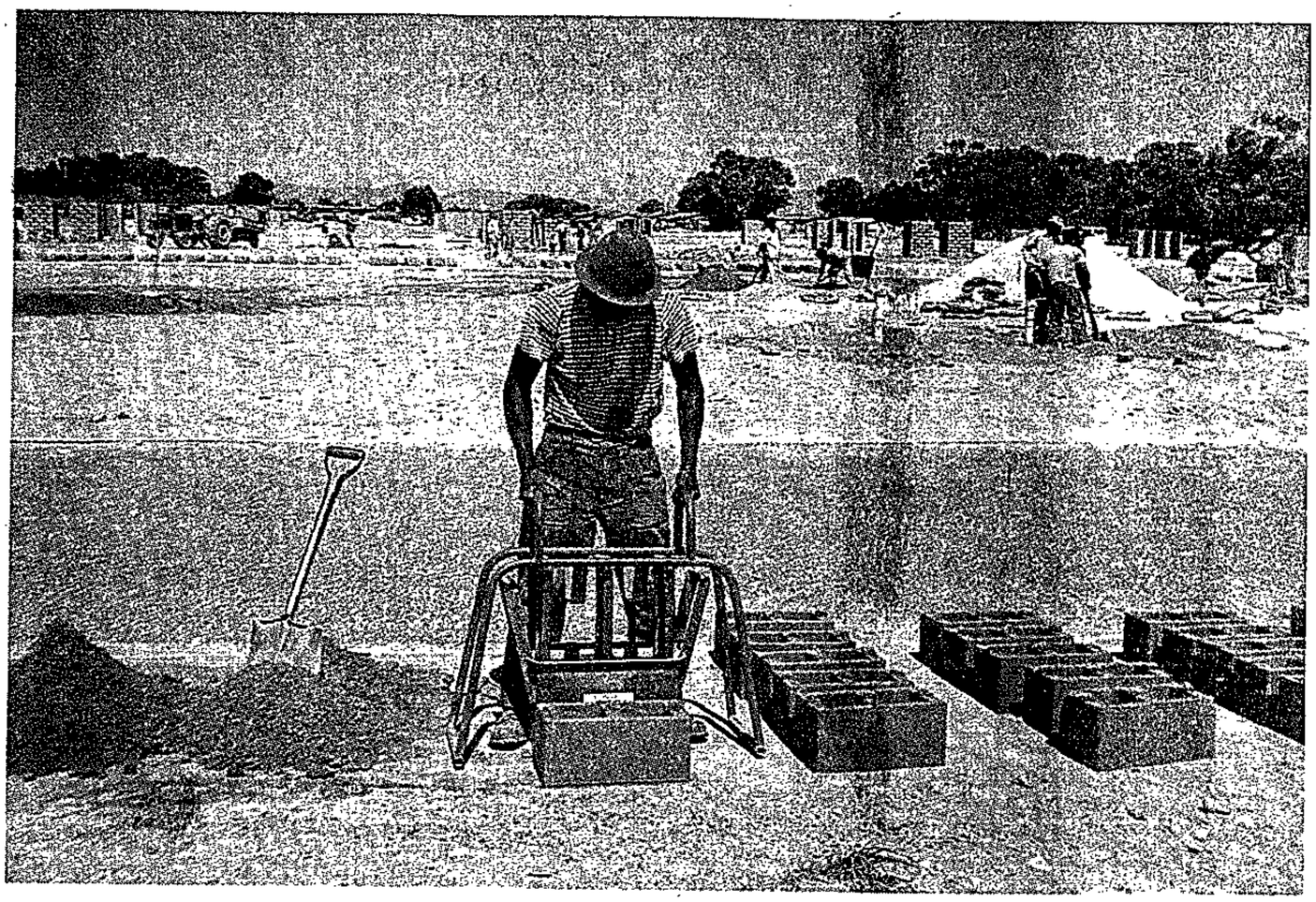
A group of future entrepreneurs were identified from the labour pool and they received additional training in business skills. These men then led each work team.

Construction done by hand included trench-digging and pipelaying, road and path construction, making kerbstones and concrete blocks and building toilets.

As the community identified itself with the project and took a sense of pride in it, the amount of theft and vandalism usually experienced on a building site was minimal, said the consultants.

Mrs Naude said: "The project is the first in the Western Cape to be carried out on a fully term-orientated labour-intensive basis, designed around manual labour.

"There are already signs that the newly trained entrepreneurs are looking to work outside the project, which will provide a long-term source of income for them and their labour teams, using their new skills and experience."



☐ **BUILDING A FUTURE:** Millers Camp residents at work on the R5,5 million project.

Illegal occupation sparks violence fears

ST Times CC Metro J 4/7/93

TENANTS are illegally occupying at least 1 200 serviced sites in Khayelitsha's Town Three and Village Five, leading to fears that the area could become a flashpoint for violence "if and when" the rightful owners claim their land.

Authorities are powerless to act because the plots are held under freehold title and the owners cannot be traced to press charges or take possession of their land.

"Only 3 000 of the 4 200 sites are occupied by the people they were allocated to," said Mr Jolyon Nuttall, communications director at the Independent Development Trust (IDT), which sponsored the R31,5m project.

By MICHEL MULLER

There were reports, Mr Nuttall said, that individuals had allegedly sold the illegally occupied sites.

He said the IDT was looking at strategies "to minimise the damage caused by mischievous characters".

He described the illegal occupation of the sites as "a manifestation of tensions between squatter leaders ... and part of their power struggle".

Mr Steyn du Plessis, consultant to the IDT, predicted that the area — called Macassar — could become a flashpoint "if and when" the rightful owners wanted to claim their sites.

A survey was being done in Macassar, "but it looks to me as if someone who does not own the sites is going around selling them," Mr du Plessis said.

Mr du Plessis said it was "not entirely impossible" that the missing owners could in fact constitute a list of false names.

"But applicants had to have proof of identification and sign the documentation," he said.

The transfers were also registered at the Deeds Office.

Mr Nuttall said the IDT funded the joint development between the Western Cape United Squatters Association (Wecusa) and a consortium of four developers after the Cape Provincial Administration had identified the land.

The IDT paid the developers a capital subsidy of R7 500 a site on behalf of the owners at the start of the project early in 1992.

Mr Gerrit Ras, acting Town Clerk of the Lingelethu West Town Council, said the allocation and selection of sites and applicants had been undertaken "entirely by Wecusa through its agreement with the CPA and the IDT".

Wecusa spokesmen declined to comment "over the phone".

400 homeless after paraffin stove flame sets alight squatter shacks

307

ARG 7/7/93

☐ Appeal for blankets and clothing for people who lost everything in blaze

KARIN SCHIMKE
Staff Reporter

A FIRE at the Plastic City squatter camp in Kuils River has left about 400 people homeless.

It was the third fire in the settlement this year and community leaders said it underlined the need to speed up negotiations with the Kuils River Town Council to resettle the squatters.

Yesterday about 80 shacks were razed.

Kuils River fire chief Mr Piet Steyn said a call came in about 2pm but when they arrived minutes later most of the damage had been done.

"We tried our best but there was a strong wind. The shacks are very close together and the fire spread fast."

Residents said it appeared the blaze started in a shack owned by a Mrs Booibooi.

Mr Norman Valashiya, chairman of the Plastic City camp committee, said Mrs Booibooi had been cooking on a paraffin stove. She went outside to fetch water and the wind caused the stove flame to set alight the plastic covering of the shack.

"It spread very quickly. There was little the fire brigade could do to stop it."

Residents scrambled to save babies and children from the fire and most were left with only the clothes they had on.

"I have lost everything," said Mr Frans Selai, as he rummaged through the ashes.

Homeless men spent the night in two tents erected by the municipality and fire brigade in the grounds of the Bellville College of Education next to the camp. Women and children were housed in the Serepta Civic Centre.

A fire brigade vehicle cruised the streets of Kuils River making appeals to the community for food and blankets for the homeless.

Mr Steyn said: "The response has been fantastic. People are streaming in to give."

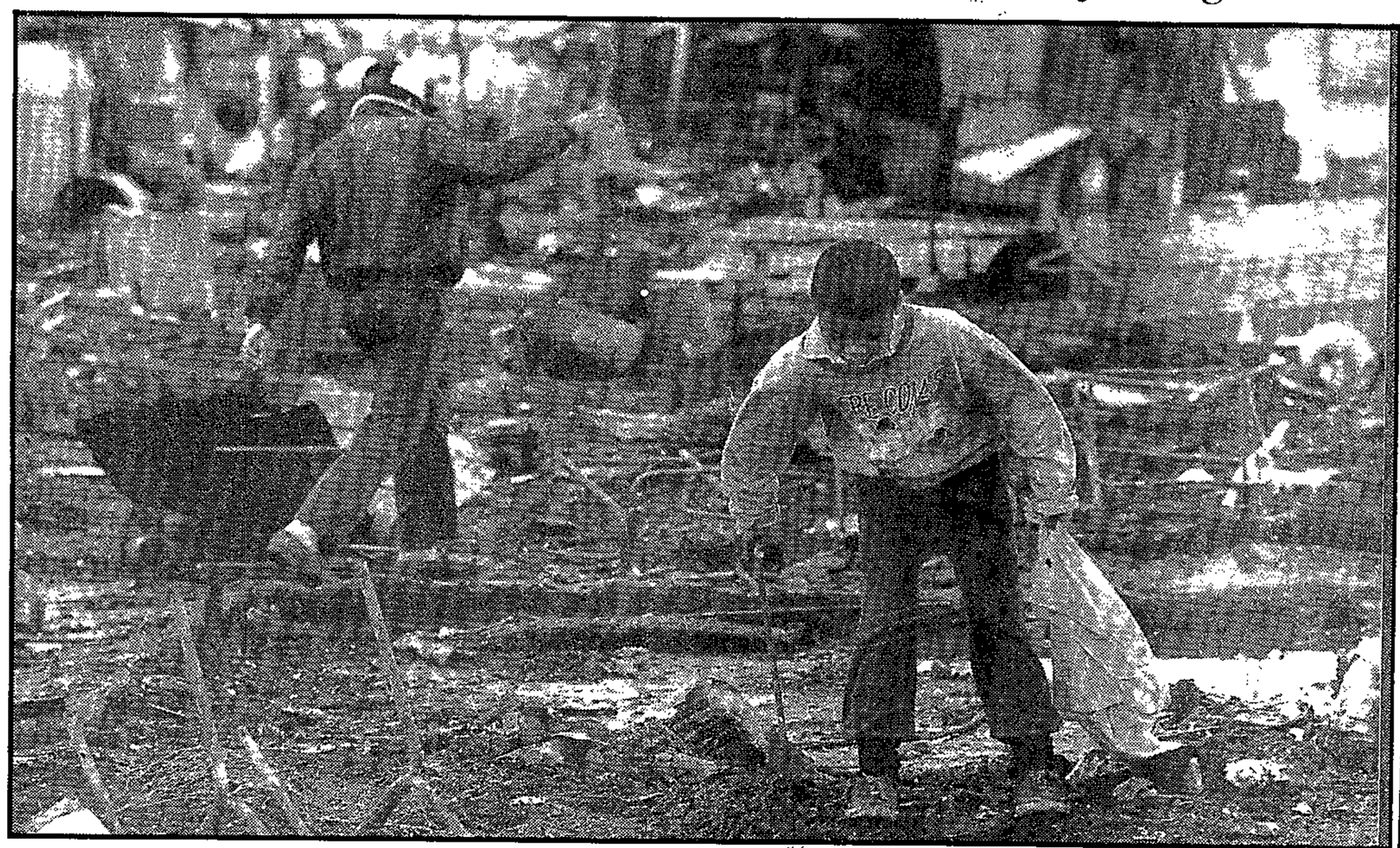
Meanwhile, Mr Randall Carolissen, a member of a Kuils River committee involved in the upliftment of the area, said negotiations with the council to resettle Plastic City residents had dragged on and he hoped the fire would emphasise the need for haste.

"We are meeting council to discuss what to do next and we're hoping they will be able to move the homeless people to a new serviced area.

"The problem will just carry on if the squatters rebuild their shacks here."

Mr Steyn confirmed that overcrowding was a serious problem in Plastic City.

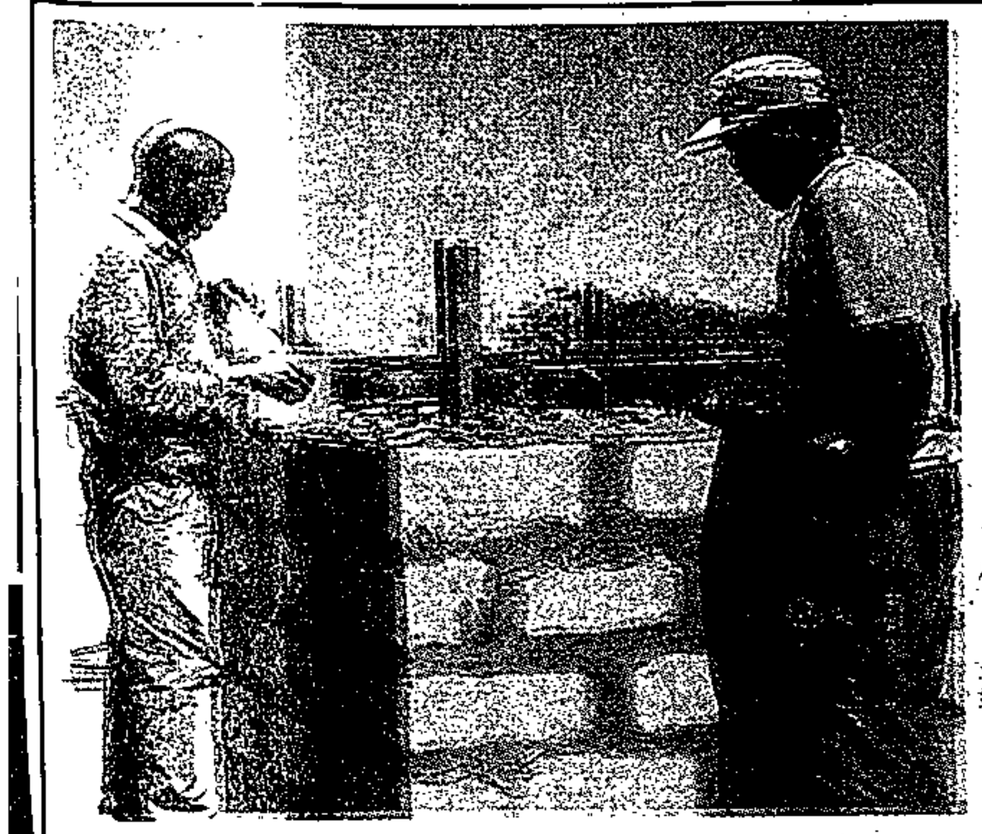
He said municipal workers would move in as early as possible today to clear the area and level the ground.



DEVASTATION: Gavin Otto, 9, above, searches the ashes of his parents' shack for anything that can be salvaged.

☐☐☐☐

BURNT-OUT: Part of Plastic City, right, smoulders after about 80 shacks were destroyed.



SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE ... Community participants lay blocks against a guide frame at the Millers' Camp township project adjacent to Crossroads.

Local hands make light work of R5,5m project

CT 8/7/93

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Property Editor

MILLERS' CAMP, the first labour intensive township development project of its kind in the Western Cape, is nearing completion.

The R5,5m project within one of the oldest squatter communities in the region, is being developed on a site adjacent to Crossroads and when completed will provide 550 serviced erven with toilets.

The majority of work on the project has been completed by the community itself using labour intensive construction methods. In all 90 jobs have been created and many of the workers have gained skills which can be marketed in other ventures when the project is completed, said resident engineer Sean Molloy of consulting engineers Hill Kaplan Scott (HKS).

He said the development, jointly funded by the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the National Housing Commission, started about two years ago with community meetings and negotiations between HKS, Ikapa Municipality, Western Cape United Squatters Association and the Millers' Camp community leaders, including ANC representatives.

"The community decided who should be trained as supervisors and so forth," he said.

Molloy said that at these meetings the details and procedures of the project were discussed in detail, down to the size of each of the erven and the number of creche sites required.

Members from the local community were trained in basic construction and building skills and have been carrying out the work, minimising the use of machines.

The contract was awarded to construction company Haw & Inglis. In-house officers handled the training last September.

A group of future entrepreneurs were identified from the labour pool and received addtional training in business skills and these team leaders then headed up each work team.

Construction activities done by hand have included trench digging, pipelaying, road sidewalk construction, the making of kerbstones and concrete blocks and the building of toilets.

Molloy said phase one, comprising 225 of the serviced sites, was now complete and work on phase two was on schedule.

The success of the project would no doubt see further projects initiated along these lines in future.

The only drawback, he said, was that labour intensive construction was more expensive than if it were highly mechanised.

"The learning curve is pretty steep at the beginning but skills learned here can be transported elsewhere."

Residents aid squatters

307
CT 8/7/93

Staff Reporter

KUILS RIVER residents and churches opened their hearts and purses when they came to the assistance of squatters who lost all their possessions when a fire destroyed 76 shacks on Tuesday, leaving 640 people homeless.

The Sarepta Civic Centre — where a large number of people, including babies and toddlers sheltered from the driving wind and rain — was a hive of activity as helpers fed the homeless and as good samaritans off-loaded blankets, food and clothing.

Mr Randal Carolissen, of the Kuils River African National Congress executive committee, said the municpality had agreed to provide food, tents and also to make Sarepta hall available to squatters.

After appeals on Radio Good Hope the public responded "very well" and donated money, food, blankets and clothing.

Kuils River town clerk Mr G Roberts said yesterday that people who lost their homes refused to return to the site and would be housed in the civic centre.

Alternatives being considered include the provision of a site on which temporary structures could be built until long-term goals are realised.

● Picture — Page 5

Kuils River helps homeless squatters

(307) CIRG 8/7/93

Staff Reporter

CLOTHES, blankets and food are pouring into the Kuils River civic centre where about 180 homeless people are living after their shacks burned down.

The municipality and the ANC have thanked the Kuils River community for the gifts and say there is enough food at the centre to feed the people for at least two more days.

Fire chief Mr Piet Steyn said all the gifts were welcome, but household utensils would be needed when the squatters re-erected their shacks.

The squatters lost all their belongings when a fire, spreading quickly in a strong wind, razed shacks in the crowded Plastic City settlement on Tuesday.

Women and children were taken to the civic centre and the men slept in tents in the grounds of the Bellville College of Education. Yesterday the men moved to the centre.

The municipality and a crisis committee formed by the ANC were locked in talks about the future of the homeless yesterday.

Negotiations about their resettlement have been going on for some time and ANC spokesman Mr Randall Carollisen said the fire had brought the problem to a head.

"It would be asking for trouble to send those people back to re-erect their shacks in the same place. The houses are so close together that the entire camp is a health and fire hazard."

He said fire could have been a catastrophe if it had started at the other end of the camp which is next to a paint factory.

"So far, land for resettlement has been identified, but the Cape Provincial Administration is still negotiating to buy it from a private owner," said Mr Carollisen.

"In the meantime it looks as if the squatters who were left homeless might be given a piece of land close to the proposed final resettlement area."

He would not say where this land was as he did not want to pre-empt decisions which might be taken at a meeting tomorrow.

The Kuils River municipality confirmed that the temporary provision of a site "where temporary structures could be built" was an option being considered.

Plea: No more perishables

(307)
CT 9/7/93

Staff Reporter

PUBLIC response to the plight of squatters left homeless after a fire destroyed 76 shacks on Wednesday has been so overwhelming that the Kuils River municipality has made another appeal — "stop sending perishable food".

Town clerk Mr G Roberts said there was enough for 700 people, but only 150 needed it.

Further donations should could be left with fire chief Mr Piet Steyn at 903-3111.



WATERY DEMISE . . . Mr Koos Samuels (left) and Mr Koos Ontong give driver Mr Flip Willemse's car the push of life after it "drowned" in the middle of a flooded road next to the swollen Berg River in Paarl, yesterday afternoon. (307) 10/7/93 Picture: HAROLD KING

C.T.

High winds flatten 50 shacks

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 50 shacks in Site 5 of Noordhoek's squatter camp were flattened by high winds yesterday, and 60 children narrowly escaped injury on Wednesday when the roof of the local crèche was ripped off.

Homeless residents have moved into the school building to shelter from wind and rain, while the RSC and volunteers from surrounding areas have supplied the destitute people with food and blankets.

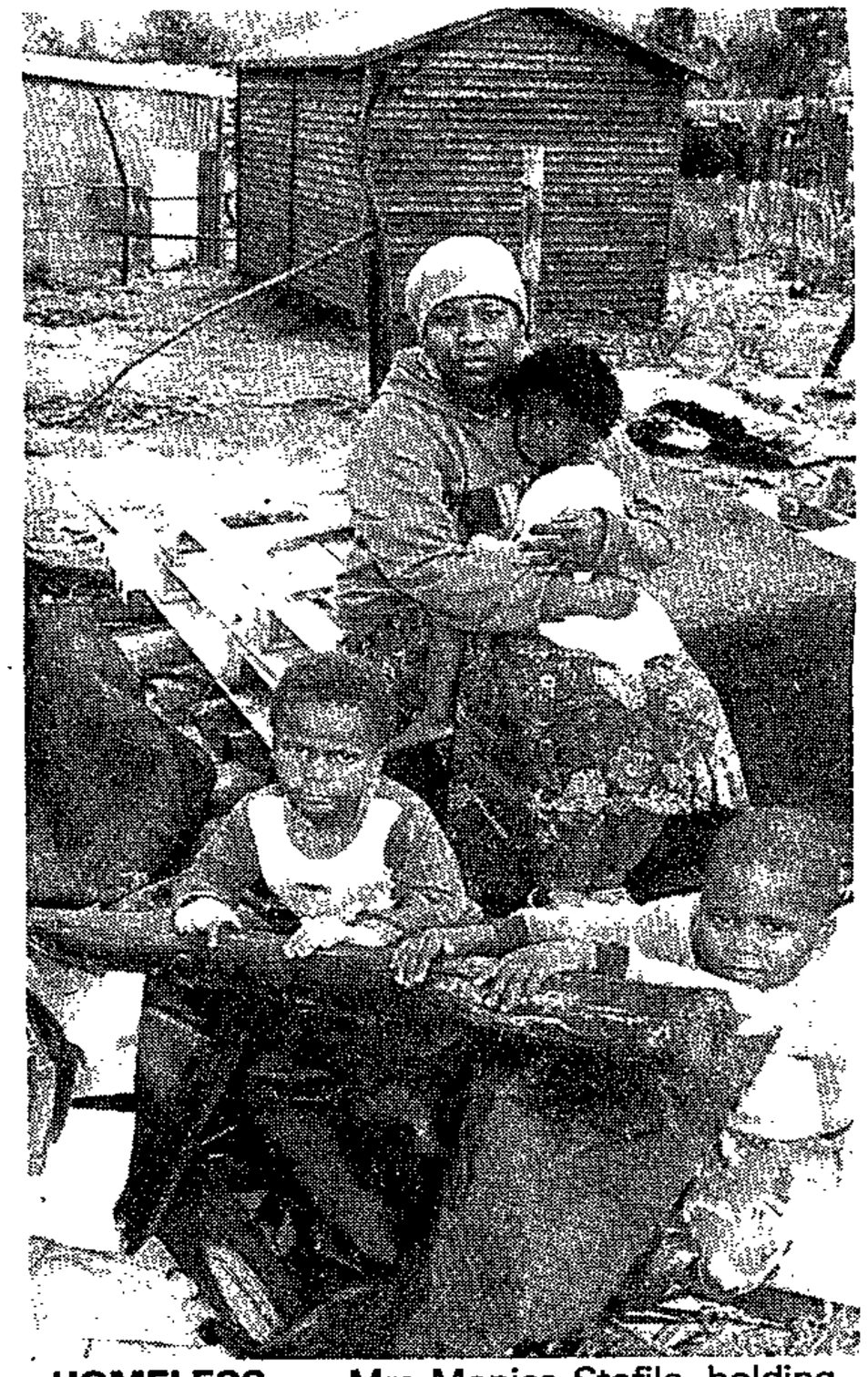
Volunteer worker Mrs Julie Hare of Noordhoek said it was "a miracle" that none of the children had been injured.

"After the roof had blown off, the children were being moved to a container which is used as a kitchen. Just as they moved away a huge bluegum tree was blown over and fell down where they had been moments before," she said.

"Then finally the container itself blew over. The kids were all in a bit of a state and were sent home."

The people of Site 5 urgently needed building materials, Mrs Hare said. A Cape Town company had donated netting, which was more effective as a building material in wind than plastic.

Fish Hoek town clerk Mr Harold Chapman said local businesses had donated food which had been trucked to the squatter camp yesterday. A collection point for donations had been set up at Fish Hoek's Baptist Church.



HOMELESS . . . Mrs Monica Stofile, holding her daughter Fikiswa, after gale-force winds destroyed her Site 5 home. In front are her sons, Luzko, 5, and Morris, 4, (right). Picture: AP

beads.

"There were some people who promised to supply us with beads and materials, but they have not kept their promises."

Mrs Chizama has a wheezing cough, but although a warm jersey is covering the upper part of her body, she is wearing only a thin summer skirt. Her legs are bare and she is wearing thin shoes made of a towelling material.

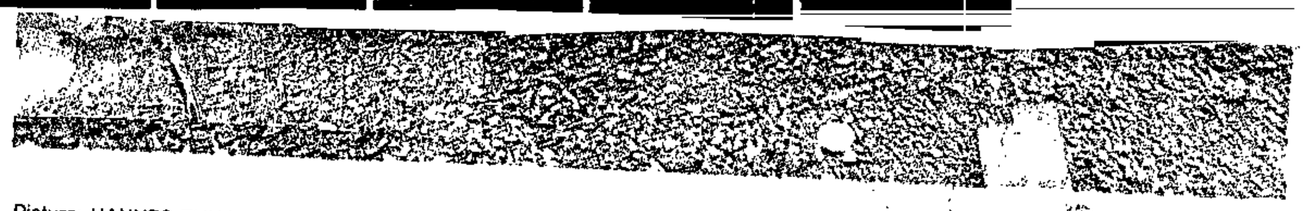
"Many of the people have chest problems, because it is so wet and we don't have enough warm clothes and blankets."

On winter nights sleep is often disturbed by a corrugated-iron roof blowing away.

"We just go out and try to put the roof back."

Bathing is another problem.

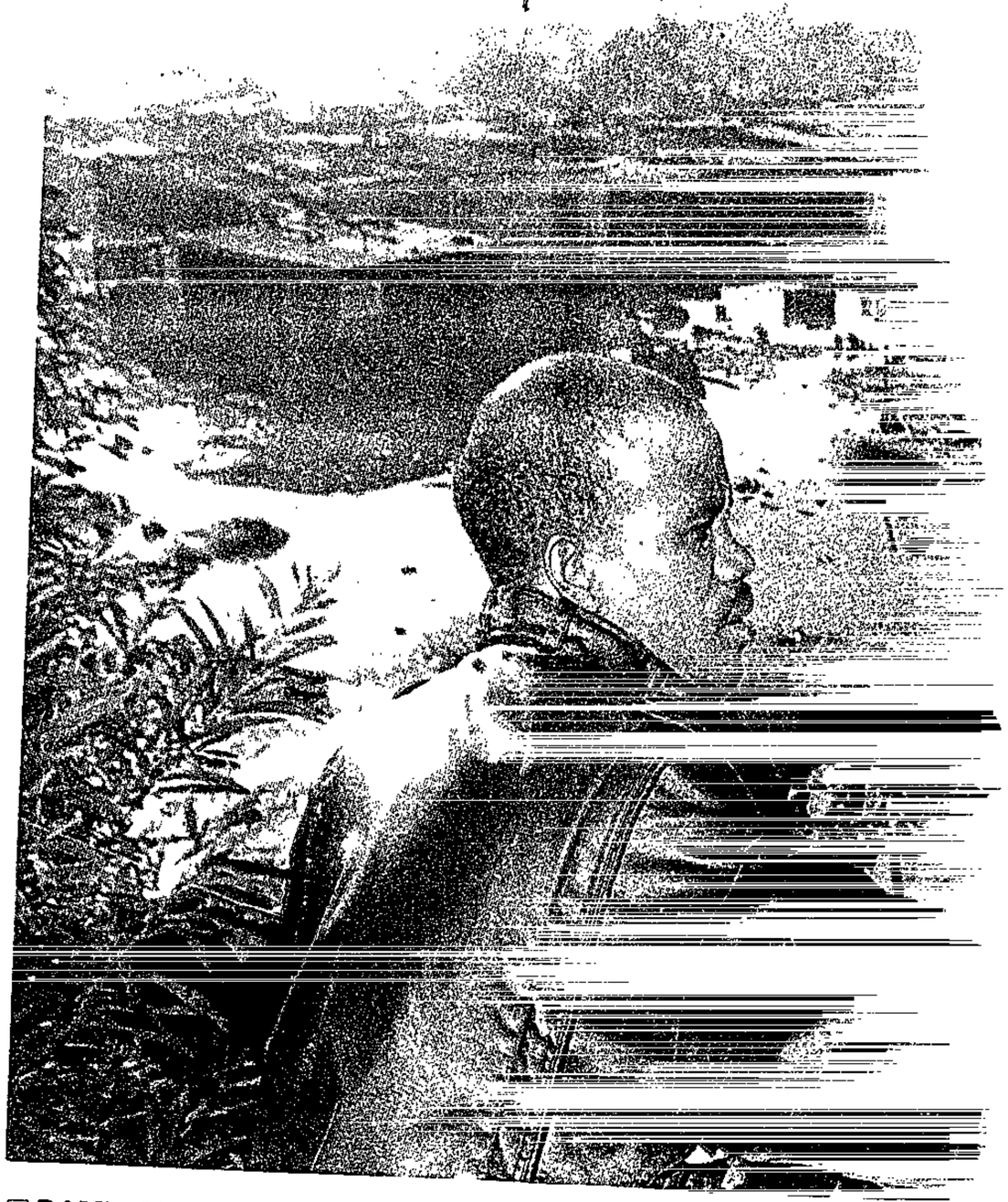
"When it is time to wash I get water from the tap outside and heat it. I put it in my big *bak* and wash myself and the children.



Picture: HANNES THIART, Weekend Argus

☐ **SMALL COMFORT:** Mrs Nofungile Chizama, who came to Marconi Beam from the Transkei, warms her hands at a communal brazier.

ARG
10/7/93 307



☐ **DAMP OUTLOOK:** Mr Terrence Mhlangatshoba, chairman of the loc

Dampness, disease

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

WATER, water, everywhere ... the lament is echoed daily by residents of Marconi Beam squatter settlement in Milnerton as winter rains make their lives a misery.

Big areas of the camp are under water and several shacks have been abandoned.

As residents try to cope with the damp and the stagnant puddles which community leaders say are causing disease, they are nevertheless determined to stay put and resist the proposed move to Du Noon, 11 km away.

The Marconi Beam community has given the municipality a list of demands which includes draining the flooded areas, removing rubbish, cleaning and emptying communal toilets regularly, providing each household with a toilet, providing the same infrastructure as that planned for Du Noon — like a clinic and tarred roads — and getting additional government funding for proper housing.

A visit to the camp confirmed sordid conditions, including big pools of stagnant water, piles of decaying rubbish and virtually impassable muddy tracks.

One of the public toilets was a foul mess, overflowing and unusable, but a Milnerton municipal team was emptying and cleaning other toilets nearby.

Mr Sipiwe Matu, chairman of the African National Congress's Youth League branch, said about 6 500 people lived in the settlement.

Some were unemployed; others earned as little as R50 a week.

After heavy rain, a pre-school housed in a shack became waterlogged and had to be closed, he said.

A bigger shack belonging to a church

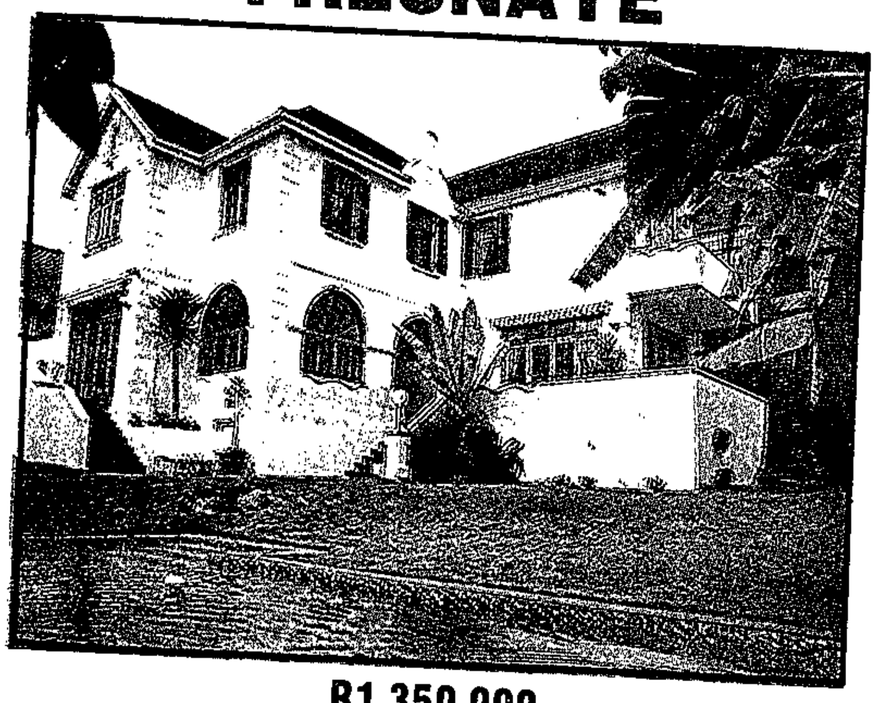
PROPERTY CORNER

ON SHOW THIS WEEKEND IN

Argus property SECTION 5

The complete property guide for the Western Cape

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Argus property SECTION 5

The complete property guide for the Western Cape

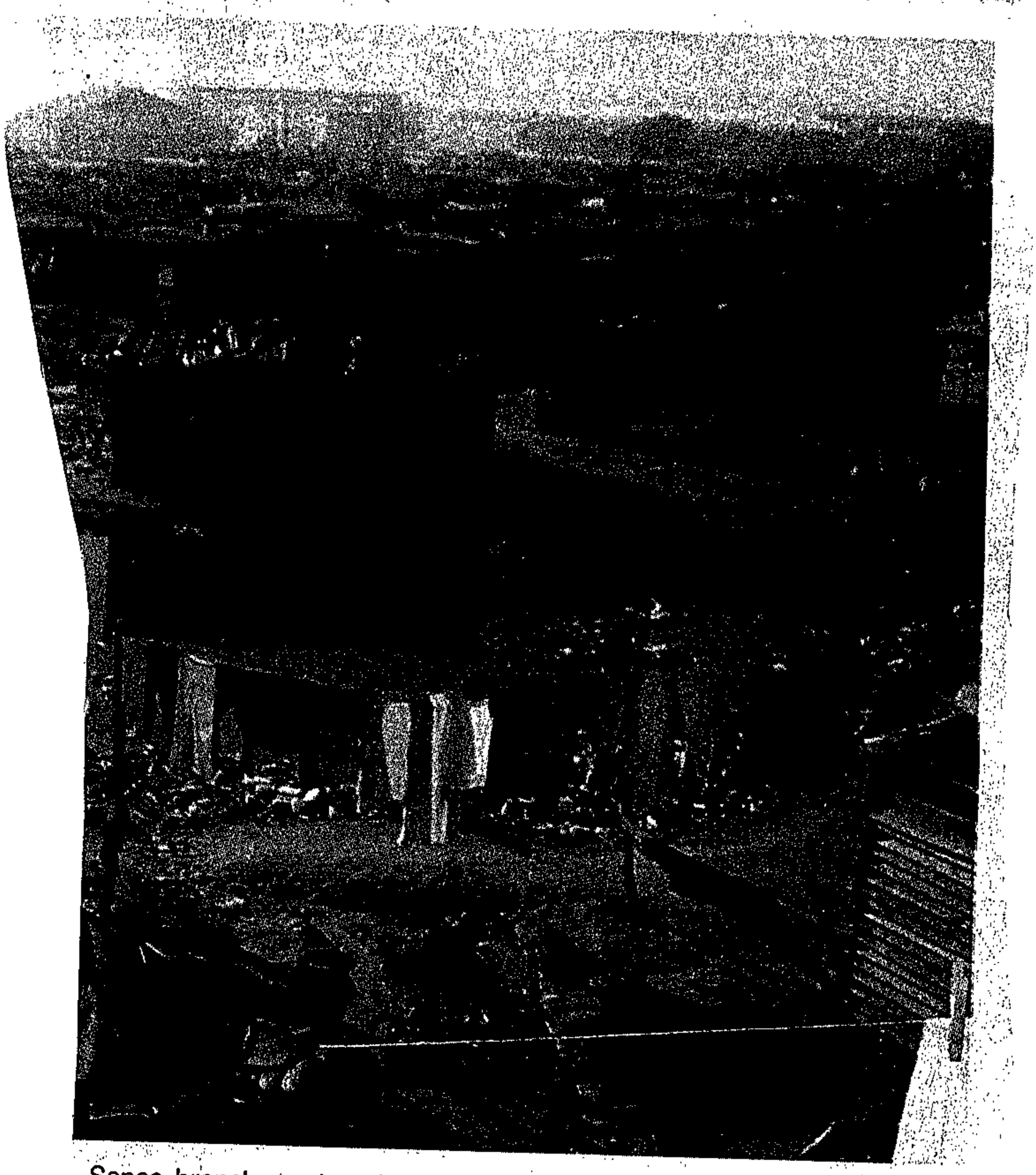
CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS IT?

town clerk Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Mr Andy Gubb said they recognised that poverty was one of the chief causes of environmental degradation.

problems of community health and environmental quality.

These included digging drainage channels to remove surface water which accumulated during the winter.

"The Wildlife Society would condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the withholding of such emergency services as a device to force the community to move."



Sanco branch, contemplates the flooded camp. Picture: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus

ARG
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(307)

— and determination

group was being used as a primary school and community hall, but teachers had not been paid since January "so they've started to lose hope".

Mr Terrence Mhlangatshoba, chairman of the SA National Civics Organisation branch, reiterated the community's determination not to move to Du Noon and to have Marconi Beam upgraded instead.

There were "many reasons" for Marconi Beam residents not wanting to move to Du Noon, said Mr Mhlangatshoba.

"Most of the people here work in the stables across the road or at nearby factories. The shopping centres are nearby.

"Our salaries are very low and we can't afford to pay for taxis or whatever. And, some of the people who work in the stables have to get up at 4am."

But, the situation at Marconi Beam was "terrible", he said.

"Firstly, we want to see this water drained, because that's our main problem.

"Our second problem is that there are no proper toilets and there are also no proper streets or street lighting."

Community leader and teacher Mrs Elda Maslentle said some Marconi Beam residents were prepared to move to Du Noon.

"But, I prefer to stay here. We want them to drain the water, take some of the people because it's so overcrowded and then to upgrade."

Mr Stephen Smith of Earthlife Africa, an environmental group trying to help the Marconi Beam community, said several residents had started small gardens around their shacks.

"If you look from the outside, it seems as if there's nothing — it's dead. But, when you come in here you find there's a lot of hope."

Marconi Beam Where life's a

ARG 10/7/93 (307)

LIBBY PEACOCK, Weekend Argus Reporter

WHILE Table View homeowners, the Milnerton municipality, environmentalists and others continue with academic and emotional arguments for and against the proposed resettlement of residents of Marconi Beam squatter camp to the Du Noon site, the main players in the drama are struggling to survive.

One Mrs Nofungile Chizama, who came from the Transkei.

Asked about daily life in Marconi Beam, she says: "This place is cold and full of water."

A small paraffin heater stands on the floor of her cramped shack. This leaves just enough space for an old chair and couch.

"In this weather we don't let the children play outside, because we are scared they will get sick. We keep them inside."

But inside there is little space to move about and nothing to do.

The squatters cannot afford gas and sometimes not even paraffin, so wood fires — dangerous, especially when there are frustrated children around — are made inside when it is raining.

Women gather wood but in the wet weather it is "very difficult" to get the wood to burn.

Fresh water is obtained from the taps installed by the municipality, but often there is not money for food, which consists mainly of bread and samp.

Mrs Chizama is unemployed, but her husband sometimes works at the stables nearby.

He struggles to support her and their five children.

"Sometimes I don't have anything to give my children to eat, so they go to sleep with empty stomachs.

"The children cry because they are hungry. They cannot understand why their mother and father will not give them food to eat. They don't understand that we don't have money.

"My last-born son is only two. He needs proper food."

In a corner of the shack there is a tub filled with water and dirty washing.

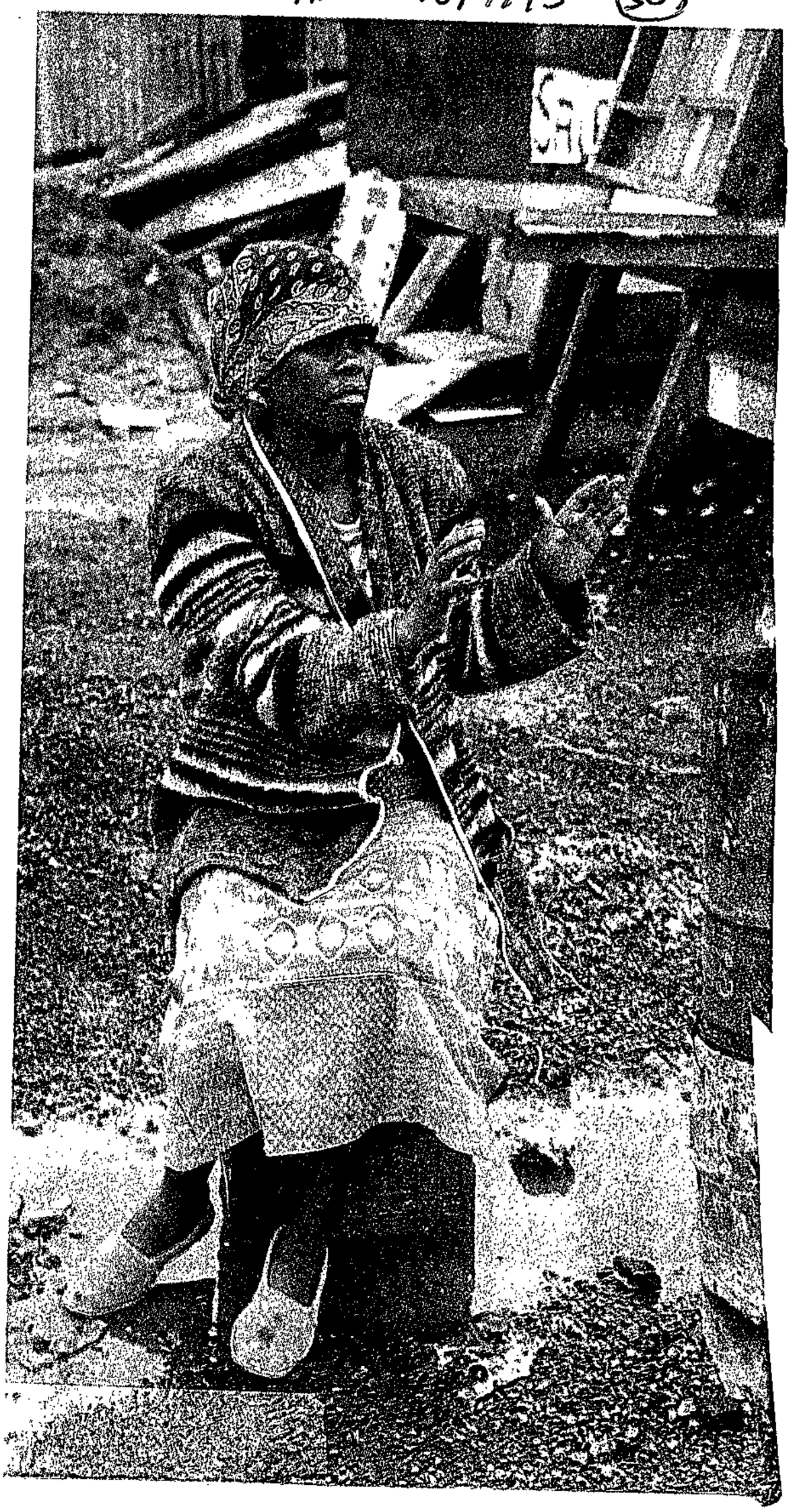
Some pieces of clothing had been hung over the partition between the living area and the "bedroom" to dry.

"To make a bed we use tins as legs and put a big door or something else over it. Then we take plastic bags and clothes to make a mattress. We all sleep on it.

"We are afraid to put it on the ground, because the water may come in.

"During winter days like these I just sit. There is nothing I can do. Long ago I sold things, but not any more.

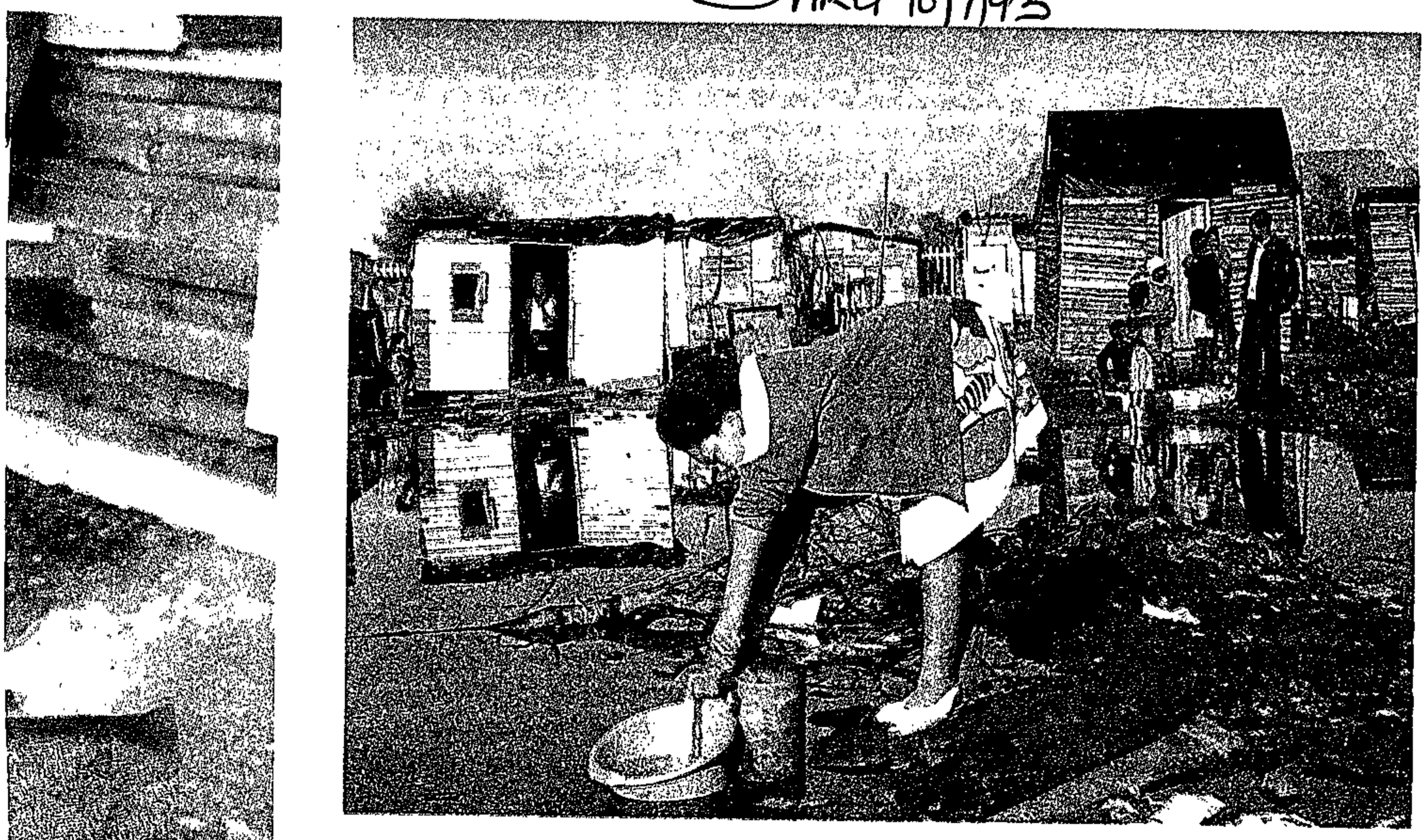
"I can do beadwork, but I have no money for



■ Life for the residents of Marconi Beam is an unending damp struggle. A long-term resident, Mrs Nofungile Chizama, tells her story.

muddy mess

307 ARG 10/7/93



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus

□ **WET, WET, WET:** Marconi Beam squatter camp resident Ms Pholiswa Cekiso fills her basin at one of the community taps.

Marching Wildlifers grumble at Rietvlei 'pollution' by squatters

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CONDITIONS at the Marconi Beam squatter camp are appalling and probably contributing to the pollution of Rietvlei, the Wildlife Society has told Milnerton municipality.

Representatives of the society and Earthlife Africa took part this week in a protest march to the Milnerton municipal offices where several hundred Marconi Beam residents demanded the upgrading of the settlement.

In a letter to the Milnerton

"Fundamental to building a sustainable society is the satisfying of the basic needs of people for food, shelter, health, energy, clean air and water, sanitation and transport."

Conditions at Marconi Beam were "appalling" and there was an urgent need to address these.

"There must be far-reaching and detailed negotiations with the community so that appropriate actions are taken in accordance with their needs and desires."

Emergency services were required to deal with pressing

"Large bodies of standing water make living conditions unhealthy and intolerable," he said.

Sewage tanks should be pumped out regularly.

Not only was it inhuman to allow an accumulation of sewage to an extent that surface spillage occurred, but sub-surface leeching of sewage-contaminated water must be polluting Rietvlei.

A regular refuse-removal system had to be introduced and the community-health service upgraded, Mr Gubb said.

Not guilty, says Nongwe

Jeffrey Nongwe is fighting off accusations that he is responsible for the violence in Crossroads. **SABATA NGCAI** spoke to him:

TRANSKEI-BORN migrant labourer Mr Jeffrey Mdase Nongwe says he is not the "monster" he claims the media has made him out to be in the violence-torn Crossroads squatter camp.

He says he has been put to "unfair trial and judgement" by the press and found guilty.

Nongwe says the media have run "untrue" reports about him "without getting my side of the story".

He is emphatic about his innocence: "The South African National Civics Organisation (Sanco) is responsible for violence in Crossroads," he said angrily.

This has been denied by Sanco.

Nongwe agrees the root of the conflict is a power struggle between Sanco and his organisation, the Western Cape United Squatters Association (Wecusa).

"Squatter land is a central issue and Sanco wants to give it to its own people," charged Nongwe.



Jeffrey Nongwe

He denies he had promised houses to Section One residents before they moved to Lower Crossroads last year.

"I persuaded the Section One residents to move to open the way for upgrading so that they could return to build their shacks on serviced land," Nongwe said.

Residents from Sections Two and Three, whom Nongwe also ordered to move to Lower Crossroads, refused to move until houses for Section One people were built.

"They misunderstood me when I said the government had promised to build houses for the residents when money was available."

He denies that he opposes the formation of the South African Communist Party in Crossroads.

He says he is an ANC-alligned Crossroads leader, and the SACP forms part of the tripartite alliance along with the ANC and Cosatu.

"Our committee had even gone to the extent of sending one member, Melford Gwayi, to organise people for the SACP."

Nongwe says he is pessimistic that the Peace Committee and the Goldstone Commission can solve the crisis in Crossroads because "they have failed to come to Crossroads to do a full investigation into the violence".

He said the Peace Committee took sides in the Crossroads violence. And throwing up his arms in exasperation, Nongwe denied he had asked for a R7 levy from residents last year.

"Ever since I stopped working in 1989, I have sold vegetables and old clothes to make a living."

"I challenge anyone who says he has been paying money to me to come forward."

He says he will not step down until "the people who elected me to the squatter leadership say so".

Nongwe says the headman system operating in the squatter areas will never be destroyed because "it was introduced by the people".

He says Sanco intends to destroy "the history of our children" by pushing into the squatter camps.

"The headmen system is our heritage," he adds, wiping his sweating face.

He denies that the system is used by the squatter leaders to amass wealth and build a power base for themselves. "This is traditional. Our people are used to headmen and chiefs at home, so why not here?"

Nongwe came to work in Cape Town in 1941.

He settled in the Langa hostels, moving to Crossroads in 1975.

He became a headman and in 1989 was elected chairperson of headmen.

By this time his former rival, the now disgraced Johnson Ngxobongwana, was mayor of the camp.

When Ngxobongwana was ousted in 1989, Nongwe was the most powerful man in the area. In 1990 the ANC branch was launched in Crossroads and Nongwe became its chairperson.

He was also a committee member of the 500 000-strong Wecusa until he was elected its chairperson in 1992.

Nongwe seldom leaves his five-roomed shack. There are always guards outside to protect him. They look unarmed but no one can be sure. One of his doors bear bullet holes which Nongwe said were from the war to oust Ngxobongwana.

A poster of Nelson Mandela and one calling for democratic elections hang on his lounge wall.

Nongwe is also a church leader in the New Zion Christian Church, conducting services in a large hall attached to his shack.

He is the only shack dweller with a telephone and he says it helps him to call the police when he is attacked.

Huge profit for owners of Du Noon

(307) CT 10/7/93

Municipal Reporter

INVESTORS made a R625 000 profit in one year by buying part of the controversial Du Noon squatter settlement site for R265 000 and later selling it to the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) for R890 000.

The government and either the squatters or Milnerton ratepayers will end up footing the bill through redemption — although at well below market rates — of a national housing funds loan, according to recent CPA and Milnerton Municipality statements.

A deeds office search by Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot) members has revealed that on July 31 last year Mr Chang Ping-yao and Mr Chang Su-chu each bought half shares in part of the Du Noon farm for a total of R265 000.

No bond is reflected in the documents as having been registered over the land, which suggests that the land was paid for in cash.

Although the transfer of ownership of the land to the CPA has not yet gone through, the Cape Times has an official document which reflects the total cost of the Du Noon land purchases and expropriations as R9,2 million.

Under the heading "land expropriated" a short list of owners and prices appears; and one of these is "Chang" with the figure R890 000 next to it.

Cravot spokesman Mr Chris Potgieter felt it was premature to comment on this yesterday.

The Changs could not be reached for comment yesterday. At the time when they received the title to their land, the announcement that Du Noon was the chosen site had not been made.

CPA spokeswoman Ms Melani Dedekind said yesterday the CPA had hired completely independent valuers to determine the land's worth.

Both the CPA and the Milnerton Municipality are very careful of what they say now that they have been given notice that there is to be a court case about the whole Du Noon issue.

CPA MEC Mr Dawie le Roux and Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber said in a joint statement earlier this year: "Although the CPA will seek finance from the National Housing Fund for purchasing the land, Milnerton will take over the loan."

Council shuns petition

MILNERTON mayor Mr Danie Krynauw and his councillors have declined to make themselves available next Saturday morning to receive a petition from ratepayers protesting against the Du Noon settlement decision.

Cravot secretary Mr Chris Potgieter read out a fax yesterday received from the council. It expressed regret for their non-availability, and said Mr Krynauw will be available during office hours. The council was not withholding permission for the march, Mr Potgieter said.

He added that a bank account had been opened on Thursday for ratepayers who are unwilling to pay their rates to the council.

Victims of fire to get Kalkfontein site

SQUATTERS housed in the Sarepta community hall and those remaining on the site on which 76 shacks were razed when a fire swept through the settlement last week will be relocated to municipal grounds at Kalkfontein.

In a joint statement the Kuils River municipality and the Kuils River Crisis Committee said the homeless people housed in the hall will remain there until relocation.

They agreed that only those from the burnt out site would be allowed to settle on the new land and that only the same number of structures would be allowed to be erected. No new squatters would be allowed to settle on the old site.

A working committee to oversee the relocation has been established consisting of two town councillors, two management committee members, four crisis committee members and municipal officials.

A three-week deadline has been set for the resettlement to take place. 307 CT 12/7/93

Flood of help for ruined squatters

Staff Reporter

GENEROUS donors have opened their hearts to the devastated Site Five squatter community at Noordhoek with gifts of food and blankets.

About 80 shacks in the settlement were flattened last week when the first of the storms struck.

The Cape Provincial Administration appealed for help. Relief efforts are being co-ordinated by the Fish Hoek municipality.

Town secretary Mr Mike Human said there had been substantial gifts, particularly of food from supermarkets, and meals had been supplied to the community since Thursday.

"The response has been good, but I'm sure there'll be a need for more warm clothes, especially with the next cold fronts moving in."

"We're having a meeting with the (Site Five) committee this morning to see what their further needs are, and we're still appealing to people to bring donations to our library or to Simon's Town library, from where we will distribute them."

Conditions yesterday at the Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton were described as "horrific" by environmentalist Mr Stephen Smith.

"Just about every house is under water," he said.

"These people don't have anywhere to go and they are just sitting tight in the water."

Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber said the municipality was concerned about the situation at Marconi Beam and a report had been prepared for consideration by the council.

This would be on the agenda of the next council meeting on July 22. (30) DARG 12/7/93 Mr Gerber said.

"If we can deal with it sooner, we will," Mr Gerber said.

He pointed out that the municipality had not been authorised to spend more money on the camp and that signs and notice boards warning people not to build shacks in the low-lying areas had been ignored.

Because of the way the shacks had been erected, it was "very difficult" for the municipality to do any work.

Flooding could not be prevented simply by dumping builders' rubble.

"This is not a simple issue," Mr Gerber said.

Relief crisis in Western Cape

Staff Reporter (307) ARG 13/7/93

THE foul weather and widespread flooding have caused a relief crisis in the Western Cape.

The Red Cross Society is "fully extended" and a supermarket chain has launched a flood disaster campaign.

The Cape Provincial Administration has given the Fish Hoek municipality R10 000 to help rebuild shacks in the Site 5 squatter settlement at Noordhoek.

It is waiting for the Milnerton municipality to apply for money for Marconi Beam, where shacks burnt down yesterday.

A Cape Town sea and air freight company, Walon, sent a R500 cheque to The Argus to be given to a relief agency.

"I hope this will encourage other companies to act likewise," said regional director Mr Ian Johnson.

Particularly hard-hit are squatter communities throughout the Peninsuala and large areas of farmland in the Boland.

The Milnerton municipality was pumping flood water out of the Marconi Beam camp today and the CPA was doing the same in Crossroads.

The body of a man aged about 60, thought to have died of exposure, was found by police on Signal Hill yesterday.

His is believed to be the sixth weather-related death in the Peninsula since the cold snap began.

Most Western Cape dams are overflowing and every river has burst its banks or is in spate, but the Weather Bureau said there had been little rain in the Boland yesterday.

"Light showers will persist today and tomorrow with the next cold front expected on Thursday."

The heaviest rainfall yesterday was at Newlands, where 26mm was recorded.

Organisers of the Berg River Marathon, who feared the lowest river in 15 years 10 days ago, now predict the highest river since 1977 when the race starts in Paarl tomorrow.

Red Cross regional director Dr Elizabeth Fuller has appealed for gifts — preferably money — as the society battles to provide food, blan-

Turn to page 2, col 1.

Red Cross in battle to aid flood victims

(Cont from page 1)

kets and warm clothing for destitute people.

Although loathe to use the word "emergency", Dr Fuller admitted the society's relief fund was "strained".

So far, the Red Cross has assisted nearly 2 000 people in the greater Cape Town area.

Residents of Weltevrede squatter camp have been moved to the Cathkin Community Centre in Heideveld and Hynes Park residents to a community hall.

The Red Cross has also been active in Nyanga and Marconi Beam.

Yesterday, to compound their problems, about 20 shacks burned down at Marconi Beam.

Dr Fuller said she suspected it had something to do with residents trying to dry out their shacks "with primitive heaters".

Pick'n Pay has set up a flood disaster relief campaign and appealed for gifts of food, blankets and clothing.

Collection points have been set up at all Western Cape stores.

The Regional Services Council reports that several houses are "severely flood damaged" in the Oude Molen district between Paarl and Franschhoek.

Springfontein Road in Philippi had been closed as the road was collapsing, spokesman Freddie Mostert said.

Chapman's Peak Drive and Franschhoek Pass are still closed.

Squatter leader Nongwe held

807 AIEG 13/11/93

Crime Staff

POLICE have arrested squatter leader and Crossroads ANC chairman Jeffrey Nongwe and eight others in a township crime clampdown.

Charges of kidnapping, assault and illegal possession of firearms are being investigated against them.

A police spokesman said a team led by Colonel Leonard Knipe, of the new riot and violence investigation unit, followed up information during a three-hour operation last night and arrested the men in Nyanga.

Six firearms and live rounds were confiscated.

The nine are expected to appear in court today.

Crossroads squatters live days of rain-filled misery

☐ Many trapped as icy water turns homes into quagmires

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS have been badly affected by the rain which has turned many settlements into quagmires.

While the plight of some flood victims has been highlighted and donors have provided relief, others are suffering silently.

In Boys' Town, Crossroads, a family of six, including two small children, are virtually trapped in their beds in a three-roomed shack which is knee-deep in water.

Mrs Rosy Mzongelwa said they had given up trying to clear the water with buckets.

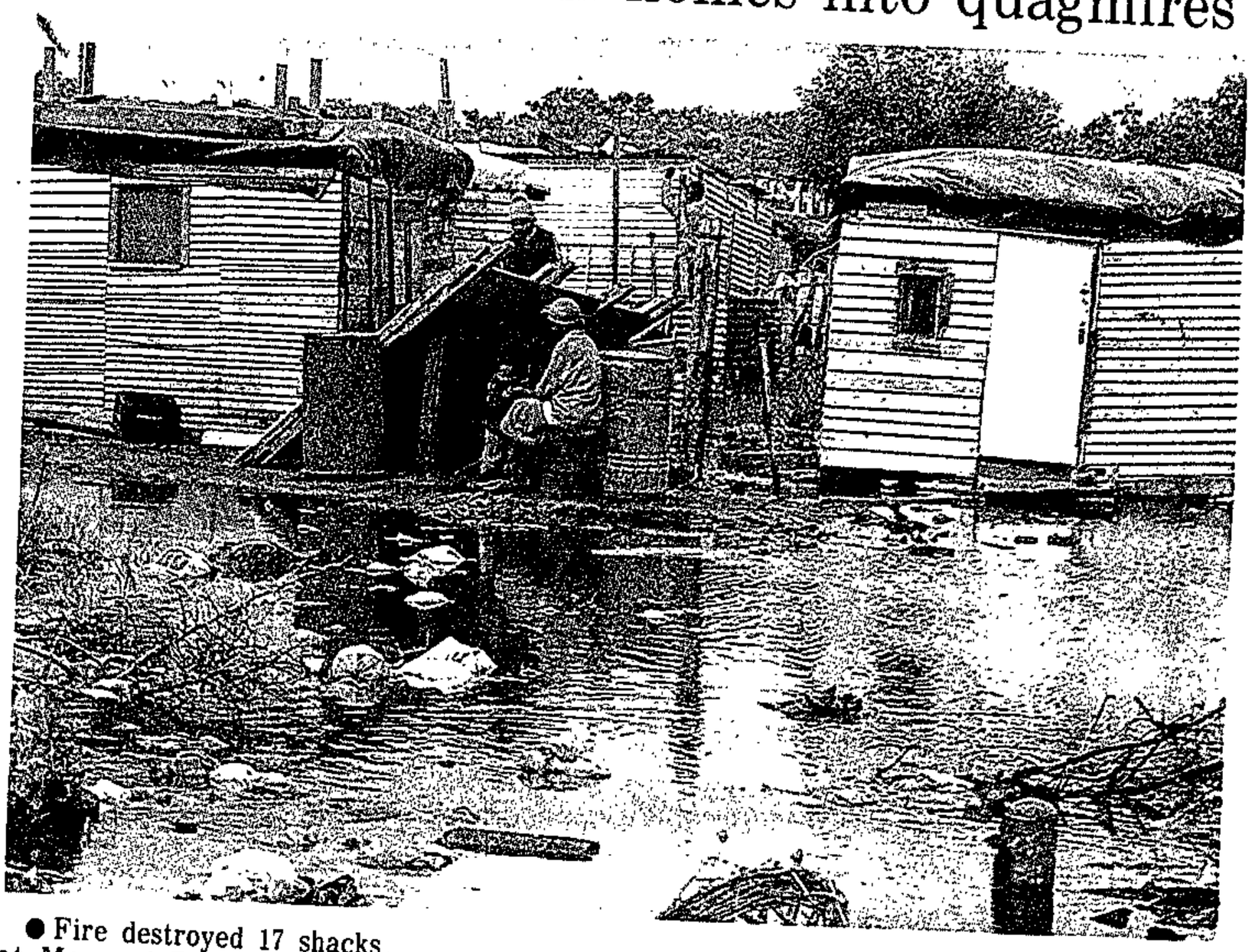
Members of her family took turns to go out, wearing their only pair of gumboots.

It was impossible to light a fire to keep warm and they were cooking on a primus stove.

One of her relatives is a man on crutches who was shot in a knee during Crossroads violence last week.

Buckets lying about, pools of water and soaked floors were evidence of the battle against the floods at most households visited yesterday.

At the Marconi Beam settlement in Milnerton, all streets were under water and residents related similar stories of misery.



● Fire destroyed 17 shacks at Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton yesterday.

Milnerton fire brigade staff put out the blaze which is believed to have started when a paraffin stove fell over and ignited furniture.

Town Clerk Mr Peter Gerber, said no-one was injured.

Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Argus

FLOODED: A woman and her child sit at a brazier while men battle to plug leaks at Marconi Beam squatter camp near Milnerton while floodwaters creep ever nearer to their shacks. All the streets in the settlement are flooded and with more rain falling, residents are becoming desperate as all their possessions are wet and soggy.



HELPING OUT . . . A Red Cross worker hands out blankets to needy residents at Marconi Beam squatter camp yesterday after many homes were flooded.

Picture: HAROLD KING

Conditions 'horrific' for squatters

BOT CT 13/7/93

Staff Reporter

HUNDREDS of residents at Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton are living in horrific conditions with 196 houses in the camp flooded since last Thursday's soaking rains.

Yesterday six shacks were razed when strong winds blew over a cooking stove and the fire rapidly spread before the Milnerton Fire Department extinquished the blaze, which left about 30 people homeless.

No one was injured.

Mrs Carol White of the South African Red Cross Society yesterday said the society was feeding about 300 people and was distributing food, blankets and clothing.

Resident Mrs Patricia Burwana, 27, said her home had been flooded since last Thursday and the muddy water had seeped under the floor.

"My husband Johannes, my baby Theresa and I don't have any dry clothes and we spend most of out time shovelling the water out of the house."

She said it was bitterly cold at night.

"The water stinks and I am worried my baby girl will get TB or pneumonia," she said.

Mrs Nomutine Mqombeni, 35, said she and her three children desperately needed dry clothes and blankets.

"My house is leaking and I don't have plastic and wood to keep the rain out," she said.

Mrs Elda Mahnentle, publicity secretary for the SA National Civics Organisation, said she had pleaded with the Milnerton Municipality to drain the water.

"There is a real danger that children could drown if there is more rain and the water rises," she said.

Meanwhile, the ANC said yesterday the complaints by Delft residents about the state of their homes, damaged by floods, were well-justified.

Squatters in Philippi are flooded out

(307) ARG 14/7/93

☐ 'How can we live like this?'

Staff Reporter

PEOPLE in the Sweet Home squatter settlement in Philippi are in dire need after their shacks were flooded by an overflowing vlei.

More than 100 residents spent the weekend in the Cathkin Community Centre in Heideveld because everything they own — clothing, matresses and furniture — was soaked.

Mrs Sybil Williams, the mother of four daughters under 13, wept when she returned to her ruined shack yesterday. "How can our children live like this? Everything is still soaked," she said.

Mr Cedric Solomons and his wife Frieda also returned to their wet shack with their month-old daughter and six-year-old son.

"We need help. We need a dry piece of land. It's too dangerous for Frieda and the children to stay in the wetness. And the water will rise soon again," said Mr Solomons.

On Sunday city council workers knocked a hole in a storm-water pipe to drain water from the settlement but deputy city administrator Mr Alan Dolby said the shacks were built "in a flood area which is totally unsuitable for squatting".

Heideveld and Belgravia churches, the Heideveld Advice Office, the African National Congress and Cathkin Caterers supplied food and clothes to squatters staying in the community centre but there had been no relief work in the camp, said Ms Betty Petersen of The Ecumenical Action Movement (Team) in Athlone

● More than 6 000 residents of the the Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton are living amid pools of water, piles of rubbish, heaps of mud and an overwhelming stench.

Yesterday residents scooped water from shacks, packed heaps of sand they buy from the Milnerton municipality around shacks and covered roofs with black plastic bags to try to keep the rain out.

"The situation is very bad. Children are suffering from asthma and TB," said the supervisor of the Masikululeke Creche, Ms Vivien Dlabantu.

Du Noon 'profit' is cleared up

307 CT 16/7/93

Staff Reporter

WHAT at first seemed a massive profit on Du Noon land being expropriated for the resettlement of squatters was explained yesterday, when the owners of the land for which R890 000 was paid were contacted.

The Cape Times incorrectly reported, on the basis of information provided by supporters of the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot), that Mr Chang Ping-yao and Mr Chang Su-chu were to receive R890 000 for land expropriated from them after paying a mere R265 000 in April last year.

In fact the Changs were offered R280 000 for their land, also at Du Noon, for which they had originally paid R265 000.

The mistake came about through Cravot's transposition of figures on a list of transfers, substituting Messrs Chang's figures for those of Ready Mix Materials (Pty) Ltd.

According to expropriation documents lodged in the Deeds Office, R890 000 has been offered as compensation to Ready Mix Materials (Pty) Ltd by the CPA as compensation for the expropriation of a 12,7ha portion of Du Noon (portion 2 farm 212).

A deed of transfer shows that the same piece of land was acquired by Ready Mix from its wholly-owned subsidiary, Peak Quarry (Cape) Pty Ltd, for just R13 465 on May 5 1992.

"In effect, there was no real change of ownership, as we already own Peak," Ready Mix commercial director Mr Derek Theck said.

Deeds office documents show that Peak Quarry acquired the land in 1959. Our calculations show that the appreciation in value since then to get to R890 000 would be between 10% and 15% a year.

Sack the council, demand ratepayers

Staff Reporter

MILNERTON town councillors are causing "irreparable harm" to the community through their handling of the Du Noon squatter settlement controversy — and should be relieved of their posts immediately.

So say the chairmen of the Milnerton, Table View, Bothasig and Richwood ratepayers' associations.

Requesting the "urgent" assistance of Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring, the combined ratepayers' associations have called for the appointment of an experienced official to take over the councillors' functions until a municipal election is called.

But a spokesman for the Administrator said the province had no authority to remove elected councillors.

In a letter delivered to the Administrator recently, the chairmen alleged councillors were inept, unable to implement agreed regulations, spent large sums with little return, caused devaluation of property, ignored ratepayers and disregarded the environment.

Bothasig chairman Mr Robbie Upton said the "squatter situation was the catalyst but not the sole reason for the letter".

The main concern of ratepayers was the fact that the Du Noon issue had driven a wedge through the council: "There's so much infighting that nothing is being done."

Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber said he preferred not to comment as he was an appointed official, not an elected representative.

But Table View councillor Mr Russell Gie said he supported the democratic right of ratepayers to call for the resignation of councillors.

However, councillors still voted "as they thought correct on any topic and I don't think the Du Noon issue has affected the working of the council".

Spokesman for the Administrator Ms Melanie Dedekind said councillors were elected in terms of municipal ordinance and the Administrator did not have the right to remove them.

Swimming in sewage

South 17/7-21/7/93

By Sabata Ngcai

SHACKS in the Samora Machel squatter camp in Philippi are awash in stinking water.

The torrential rain and floods have caused untold misery to thousands of squatters in the Cape.

Mrs Angeline Kondlo said she left her shack on Saturday evening after she gave up trying to stop the water from flooding her home.

"The roof caved in and I had to flee from my shack in the pouring rain," she said. "I am left with nothing, no food, no money, no clothes and no blankets."

An overwhelming stench pervades the Samora Machel site. With no sewage facilities, the rainwater has carried faeces into the shacks.

Many residents have already fled the area with whatever possessions they could salvage.Children have fallen into the stinking water. Some of them have been drinking it, unaware of the sewage content.

Samora Machel residents were concerned they might get ill.

Residents complained that their belongings were stolen while they were sleeping in "refugee camps".

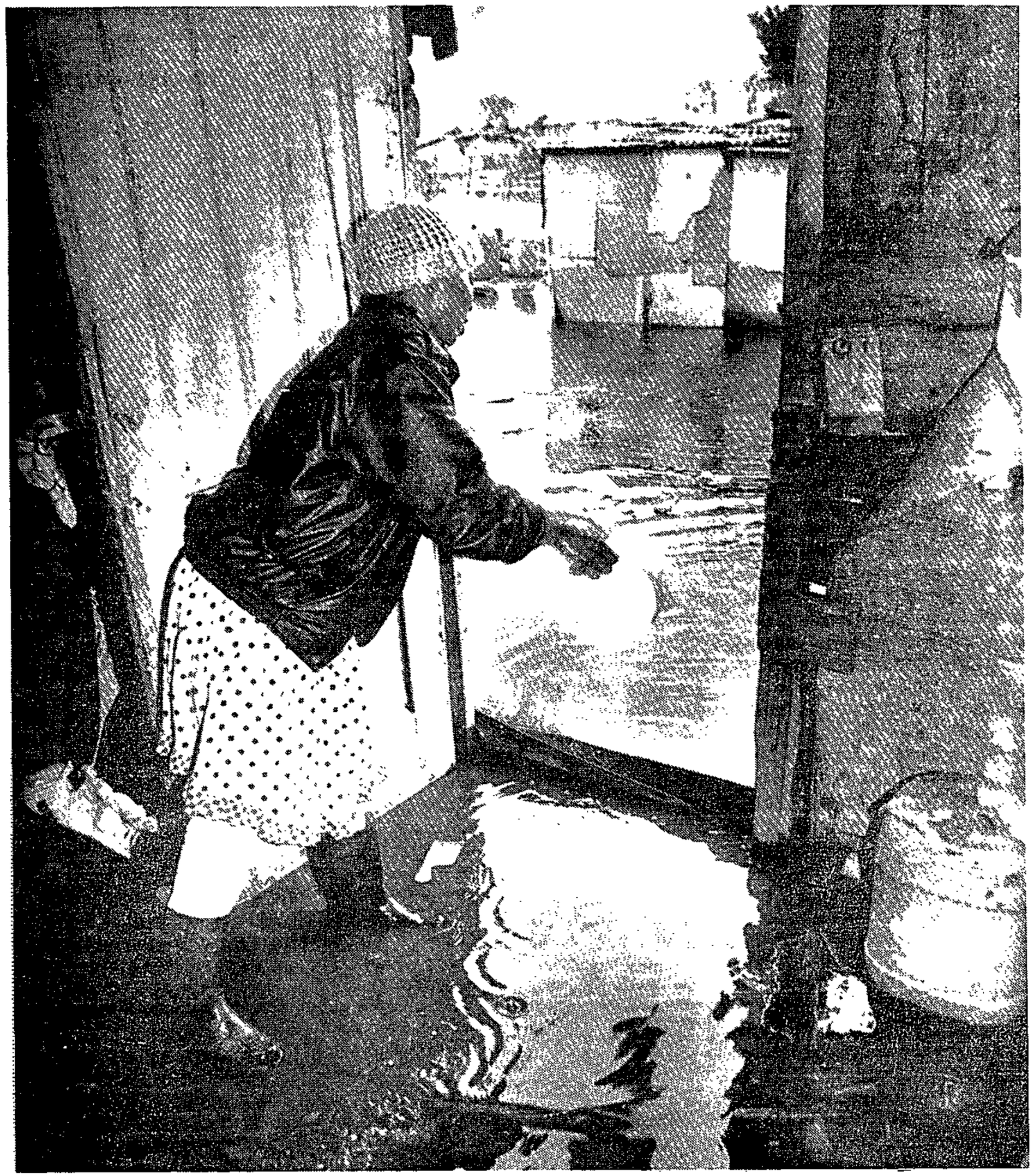
By Wednesday men were busy trying to remove the shacks to erect them on drier ground.

Mrs Mayalo Nobhadla described her family's nightmare: "Water started rolling inside the shack while my children and I were still sitting around the fire on Friday evening.

"We were forced to stand on our bed when the flood-waters came but then the bed collapsed. We had no choice but to run away to relatives."

Mr George Naku appealed to all people who could help.

"I am only left with clothes on my body," he said.



WATER EVERYWHERE: Desperate Mrs Angeline Kondlo drains flood-water out of her shack in Philippi
Photo: Yunus Mohamed

MP to accept Du Noon call

307

CT 17/7/93

Municipal Reporter

MEMBER of Parliament Mr Gert Kotzé has agreed to receive a petition today at the end of a Milnerton protest march against the Du Noon squatter settlement, Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot) secretary Mr Chris Potgieter said.

Milnerton falls within the Malmesbury constituency of Mr Kotzé, who stepped in after the Milnerton Municipality decided not to receive the petition.

Sl Times & C/Metro

Protest against Du Noon

18/7/93

BETWEEN 200 and 300 people yesterday joined a march organised by the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Tableview known as Cravot to protest against the proposed re-settlement of the Marconi Beam squatters in Milnerton at the Du Noon site.

Neither the mayor of Milnerton Danie Krynauw nor any of the town councillors was avilable to accept the petition which was handed to Malmesbury MP Gert Kotze (124) (307)

Mr Kotze, who said he had opposed the Du Noon development from the start, promised to hand the petition to the state president, the administrator, and the Milnerton town council.

Braving the wet weather marchers demanded an immediate referendum on the issue. — Sapa



CIVIC DIARY

By PETER DENNEHY

307 CT 19/7/93

Du Noon cost plan outlined

ONE of the demands of the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot) is that the state should shoulder the responsibility for providing the squatters with facilities and housing.

They are concerned that ratepayers may be saddled with huge costs which will eventually be added to their rates bills.

This concern arises out of the fact, which the CPA has admitted, that it has bought and expropriated 91ha of Du Noon land at a cost of R9,2m, with a view to this land being serviced and made ready to accommodate some 12 000 people on 2 100 plots.

This acquisition of land will be paid for through a loan from the National Housing Commission. The loan which the CPA has raised from the Commission for this purpose is to be taken over by Milnerton Municipality.

This does not mean, however, that the ratepayers of Milnerton will have to pay for the development, which most of the squatters will not be able to afford.

It has been reported that the Milnerton council is considering providing formal housing, rather than just services. The cost of developing the infrastructure will be about R27m, judging from what the council has said (R36m for land and infrastructure, and we know the former will cost R9m).

The houses, if they are provided at all, are likely to cost another R27m.

The existing formula for repaying loans from the National Housing Commission requires the state to pay most of the cost of homes for the poor.

As I understand it, the funds from the Commission are lent to local authorities at an interest rate of 13,5%, to start with.

However, the local authority has to establish the income of each household actually enjoying the benefits of the fund, and these have to pay a percentage of their income towards redeeming the loan.

Those earning up to just R50 a month have to pay a mere 3% of their income. Since the average income of those earning between 0 and R50 a month is R25, 3% of R25 works out to a 75c a month repayment.

Until recently, those earning R1 200 a month or more had to pay up to 41% of their income (nearly R500 a month) on the same sliding scale, but in recent weeks a decision has been taken to set a limit of 25% of income.

The local authority collects all the "bond repayments" levied in terms of the formula, and then submits these to the state every six months along with a certificate requesting that the difference between the amounts submitted and the 13,5% interest rate should be written off as a subsidy.

There is also a scheme whereby loans used for community facilities and external services can be paid for at 1% or 11,5% rates of interest, depending on the percentage of benefitting residents earning less than and above R450 a month.

Thus even though Milnerton has a small budget of just R68,5m this year, existing ratepayers in that municipality need not fear that a huge burden is to be placed on them as a result of the development of Du Noon — or Marconi Beam.

AIDS: Literatu

(30T)
ARG 23/7/93

Most squatters oppose move to Du Noon

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

TWO-THIRDS of Marconi Beam squatters do not want to move to Du Noon, an Urban Foundation survey says.

The most common reason was that Marconi Beam was close to work and amenities.

Those who wanted to move to Du Noon said Marconi Beam was overcrowded, sites were small and there was dampness and flooding.

Urban Foundation housing manager Mr Gavin Wyngaard said there could be tragic consequences if the community had to spend time and money travelling further or if households were forced into unaffordable repayment situations.

The people of Marconi Beam were urban pioneers facing enormous odds with a shortage of life-skills.

Some residents were reluctant to stay because of winter flooding, poor environmental conditions, lack of services and the distance they had to travel to work, especially those working in Table View and Bloubergstrand.

"The desire to move should be seen in the context that the survey was done in winter, when conditions at Marconi Beam are at their worst.

"It must therefore be determined whether the decision to move is actually a desire to move to Du Noon or to 'somewhere better' — dry, safe and clean."

Mr Wyngaard said about half of the households who wanted to stay did not seem aware of the proposed facilities at Du Noon.

It was essential people made such decisions only when adequately informed.

"Any decision to develop new serviced sites or opt for upgrading Marconi Beam should be made only when there is a satisfactory level of consensus on the matter," Mr Wyngaard said.

The survey found:

- About 67 percent of residents were between 18 and 65 years old;
- Average household size was 3,4 people;
- Average household income was R577 a month;
- More than 97 percent of income-earning residents got less than R1 000 monthly;
- More than half the community were functionally illiterate;
- About 30 percent of children under 18 did not attend school;
- The most important development priority was a school, while individual household priorities were toilets and taps;
- Most residents came from the Transkei, Ciskei or townships south-east of Cape Town;
- Families had spent about R600 on their houses;
- Those willing to move to Du Noon were prepared to spend R100 a month on housing and R34 a month on services.

Compilers of the survey said there had been problems with translating and paraphrasing questions, while conducting it in winter had also caused problems.

Other problems included heads of households not wanting to disclose their earnings in front of their wives and children.

In a joint statement, the Marconi Beam Civic Association and Milnerton Town Council said various issues in the report would be the basis of future negotiations.

Talks between the association and the council are scheduled for August 4.

New homes for shack fire survivors

South 247 - 28/7/93

By Barbara-Ann Boswell

RELIEF is in sight for hundreds of Kuils River squatters after the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) offered to provide R300 000 towards the relocation of squatters to a farm owned by the Kuils River municipality (307).

A crisis arose when 150 squatters were left homeless by a fire which destroyed 75 shacks. Now an agreement has been reached between the Kuils River Crisis Committee and the CPA to relocate squatters.

"We are working with the Development Action Group (DAG) to install facilities which can later be upgraded to a formal settlement," said Mr Ronnie September, chairperson of the Crisis Committee.

He said that squatters from three different settlements in the area would eventually settle on the land.

"The CPA will provide R300 000 for the installation of the basic infrastructural facilities such as water, sewage, and roads. Plots of land will be allocated where people can re-erect their shacks, but the plots will have enough land for when they are ready to start formal development," said September.

"We want them to be totally integrated — religiously, socially and culturally — with the rest of the Kuils River community," he added.

September feels that the fire has been largely responsible for the agreement. "It was a tragedy that lead to the group forming and working together in the black community of Kuils River".

Du Noon: 33% willing to move

A COMPREHENSIVE Urban Foundation survey of the Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton has shown that only the better-off third of the 2 800 surveyed residents are willing to move to Du Noon.

In all, 820 of the total of 837 (98%) existing shacks were included in the survey which was conducted over the past two months.

On average, the households who expressed a willingness to move were prepared to spend R100 a month on housing and R34 a month for services.

Those households who wished to remain at Marconi Beam (67%) were prepared, on average, to spend R40 a month on housing and R25 a month for services.

(307) CT 24/7/93

A major reason for wanting to stay was that Marconi Beam is close to work opportunities. Just over half the camp's residents walk wherever they go.

The small amounts of money which residents can afford for housing and services are likely to be a headache for planners. The Urban Foundation noted that R100 a month available for housing translates into affording a loan of just R6 250 over 20 years.

R40 a month yields only R2 500 for the same period.

Milnerton municipality was not prepared to comment yesterday but is scheduled to discuss the report.

The CPA indicated a response would probably be made on Monday.

RSC rejects Du Noon change

253 307 CT 29/7/93

Municipal Reporter

MILNERTON municipality's request for an amendment to the Guide Plan to facilitate the development of Du Noon was turned down by the Western Cape Regional Services Council yesterday.

This rejection will not, however, hold up the development of the new township, the CPA says, as the Less Formal Townships Act of 1991 specifically exempts such townships from the provisions of guide plans.

Milnerton wanted to change its Table View North structure plan to reflect the presence of the Du Noon township, and it cannot do this unless the structure plan is consistent with the broader, metropole-wide guide plan.

There was little discussion of the matter at yesterday's meeting, as chairman Mr Piet Loubser stressed that the RSC need not take sides in the row over the development.

All that was before the council was a decision as to whether or not the the proposed development was in conflict with the guide plan, and whether the plan should be changed, he said.

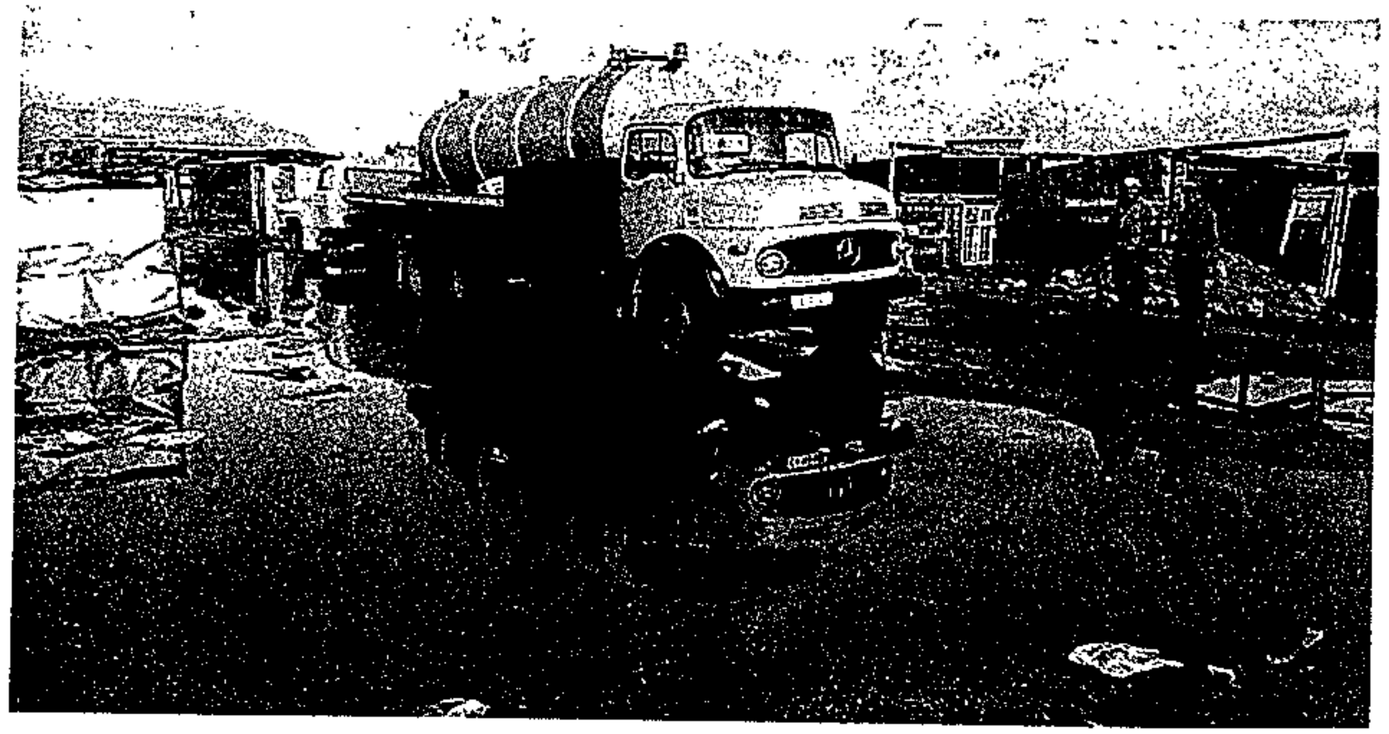
The RSC accepted a report which pointed out that the Du Noon site was designated industrial in terms of the Guide Plan at present. It would eventually be part of a corridor of industrial and commercial development.

Rezoning of large portions of land for a single usage created islands of poverty.

The planners said they preferred developing smaller pockets of land for low-income housing, so that these could fit in more easily with their surrounds.

307 ARG 29/7/93





HOME SWEET HOME: Rubble is dumped, left, in the Sweet Home squatter settlement in Philippi in an attempt to fill the area and stop flooding by an overflowing vlei. Meanwhile, at Marconi Beam, a Milnerton municipality tanker crew, right, drains rainwater which has collected among the shacks.
Pictures: WILLIE de KLERK The Argus

Residents battling for warmth

☐ Misery in Milnerton and Philippi waterlogged shanty settlements

EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

MANY Peninsula shack settlements are still waterlogged.

Tales of misery emerged this week at Marconi Beam in Milnerton and Sweet Home in Philippi where more than 100 residents were left virtually stranded when their shanties were flooded a fortnight ago.

Sweet Home residents spokesman Abraham "Appels" Goliath said some shanties were still sodden and it was difficult to make fires for warmth as firewood and planks were wet.

A vlei which flooded the small settlement a fortnight ago was still overflowing, he said.

Although the Milnerton municipality is digging temporary drains for stormwater at Marconi Beam, most parts of the settlement are under knee-deep, stinking water.

The situation was bad and some residents had had to move their shacks, said ANC branch chairman Philip Rasmeni.

The municipality had provided building materials for victims of a fire which destroyed six shanties a fortnight ago, but so far only one family had rebuilt.

"The whole place is in water and families do not know where to rebuild."

● Nr Dambile Mkhala, a shoemaker who lived alone at Marconi Beam, was burnt to death when his shack caught fire on Tuesday.

"Nobody knows how the fire started but it is believed to have been inside because when neighbours went to assist, the flames were coming out.

"Ironically we put out the fire by using the same water that was making our life a nightmare. But by the time we had the blaze under control Mr Mkhala was dead," said Mr Rasmeni.

How YOU can help ...

CASH donations should be sent to The Argus-BP Flood Relief Fund, PO Box 15399 Vlaeberg 8018.

Cheques should be made payable to the Red Cross Society, not to The Argus.

Offers of goods can be made to the Red Cross, ☎ 797 5360 or dropped at its offices in Broad Road, Wynberg.

St John Ambulance, 80 Darling Street, is acting as a collection depot. Contact Hazel Powell, ☎ 461 8420.

Steady flow of cash, donations for Argus flood relief fund

JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

ALMOST R200 000 and still climbing!

That's the latest cash total for The Argus-BP Flood Relief Fund, being run in association with the Red Cross Society to alleviate winter hardship in the Western Cape.

Also, donations in kind such as blankets, basic foods and fruit worth more than R65 000 have been sent to the fund.

Yesterday, cheques and postal orders totalling R16 900 from 82 Argus readers were banked by the Red Cross.

In another major development, the 500-odd members of the Peninsula Independent Practitioners Association have decided to donate their services to establish an informal medical clinic at the Marconi Beam camp at Milnerton.

Milnerton municipality has agreed to donate the structure at the camp that is being used as a distribution centre by the Red Cross.

"It's marvellous because it has running water and a loo," said spokeswoman Elsa Green.

"This is the start of something big. We've now got the doctors, we've got the structure — now all we need is the wherewithal to get this clinic under way."

The Red Cross was appealing to pharmacists and pharmaceutical companies to donate basic medicines and medical supplies such as panado, immodium, ringworm syrup, scabies treatment, cough mixtures, antiseptics and cotton wool, said Mrs Green.

"We need these to deal with the real basics — the problems the kids come in with."

Anyone able to assist can contact Mrs Green at ☎ 797 5360.

● The captions to the pictures of gifts from Cape of Good Hope Bank and the OK Bazaars, Kenilworth Centre were inadvertently transposed in Monday's editions of The Argus.

The error is regretted, and the sponsors are thanked for their generous gifts.

'I didn't meet Ciskei govt' — Nongwe

By Sabata Ngcai

CROSSROADS leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe says he visited the Ciskei squatter camps last week to recruit more members for his Western Cape United Squatters Association (Wecusa).

He vehemently denied he had met the members of Ciskei's ruling Council of State.

Nongwe and his entourage are reported to have held talks with the Ciskei Council of State.

This was revealed in testimony given this week to the Goldstone Commission hearing by Mr Conrad Sandile, a member of Nongwe's delegation to Ciskei.



JEFFREY NONGWE

Sandile is a deputy chairperson of Wecusa and the organisation's housing director.

Though the Ciskei Council of State could not be reached for comment, the Ciskei consulate in Cape Town confirmed the meeting although it refused to reveal who attended.

Nongwe emphasised he wanted Wecusa to become a national organisation.

He said squatters all over the country were suffering and he had found it necessary to extend the membership of the organisation.

Nongwe said he wanted to make sure that "squatter residents lead a better life".

As to whether he was driving Wecusa to become a political party one day, Nongwe refused to commit and referred the question to the organisation.

The ANC said it had no problems about Nongwe's trip because he travelled to Ciskei as a representative of Wecusa and not the ANC.

Education is a windy shack for Marconi Beam kids

ARG 1/8/93

307



■ For 260-odd children in Milnerton's shackland, school is a single classroom of wood and cardboard. Weekend Argus visited the fledgling primary school this week. **LIBBY PEACOCK** wrote the words and **WILLIE de KLERK** took the pictures.

IN winter a cold wind blows straight into the doorless, haphazard structure with its broken, old school desks and only a torn world map, a calendar and a school timetable to brighten its walls.

This wood and cardboard building in the Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton houses the area's only primary school.

Weekend Argus visited the school where about 260 children from Sub A to Standard 5 are taught.

Queueing outside, the children, some barefoot, sang a beautiful, haunting Xhosa hymn. For a moment their serenity blocked out the miserable surroundings, the puddles of water and filth.

But not for long.

The large shack was originally built to house the African Native Mission Church and is the only building in Marconi Beam big enough to be used as a school.

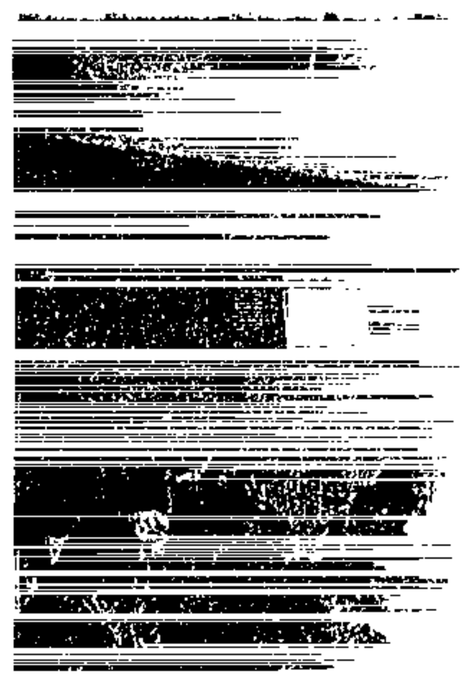


As there are no partitions in the single classroom with its uneven plank floor, the Sub As were gathered in one corner, the Sub Bs and Standard 1s in another and the Standard 2 to 5s in the middle.

Three splintered blackboards rested on the ground against the far wall.

Volunteer teacher Wellington Nopoto said: "It is very difficult to teach like this, but we don't have another structure. We have a great need for a proper school.

"More children are coming every day and community law says we must not reject children — we must take them all.





□ **A HYMN IN THE COLD:** Pupils, above, sing a Xhosa hymn outside the shack used as a primary school in the Marconi Beam squatter settlement. They are led by school teacher Mr Wellington Nopoto.

□ **AGAINST ALL ODDS:** Mr Nopoto makes a point to a pupil, left, in the Marconi Beam primary school.

□ **EAGER LEARNERS:** Their school, right, is a one-roomed wooden and cardboard shack, but the pupils in Marconi Beam primary school are enthusiastic learners. Teacher Mr Nopoto explains a subject to his pupils.

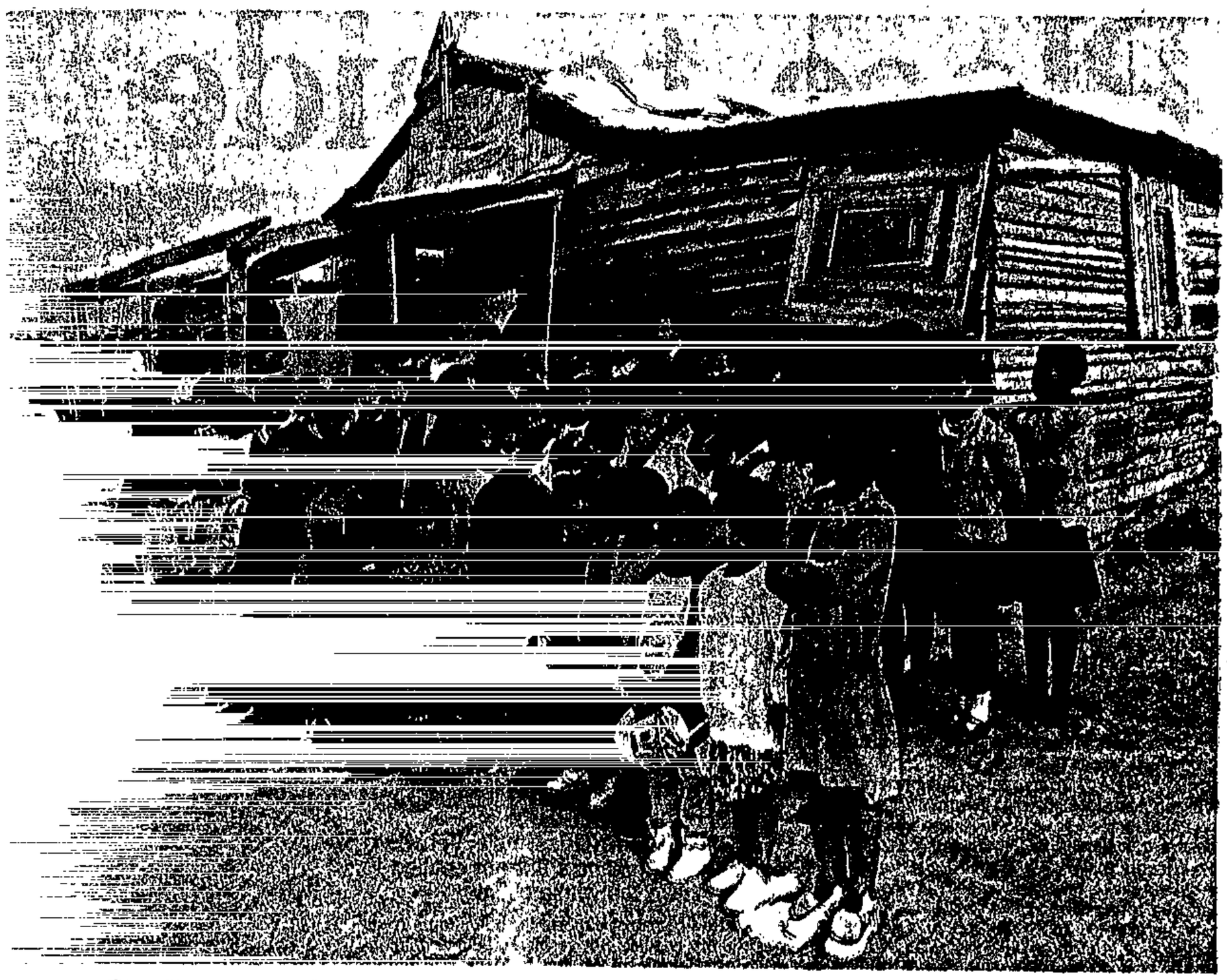
"Sometimes, when the wind is not blowing, we use a tent donated to us by Mr Barry Petersen as an additional classroom.

"We don't have any money for books, but sometimes people help us. At least the children are learning."

Mr Nopoto, who was a school principal in KTC before he moved to Marconi Beam, and the five other teachers at the school do not earn a salary, as the school is not recognised by the DET, although the teachers follow a DET syllabus.

"There were so many children just walking around that we decided to start the school

Rhodes University literacy project reaches



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principal in KTC before he moved to Marconi Beam, and the five other teachers at the school do not earn a salary, as the school is not recognised by the DET, although the teachers follow a DET syllabus.

"There were so many children just walking around that we decided to start the school in January. We want our children to learn. The children come every day, but they need books, writing materials and desks.

"For these people it is difficult to collect school fees and we get no help from the government."

As the structure has no electricity, toilets or running water, the pupils use the community's limited facilities.

Mr Nopoto said he would like the community around the squatter area to take an interest in the children and their plight. He wanted to help the children to become independent through education.

Some of the older children in Marconi Beam go to high schools in Langa, Khayelitsha and other areas.

Evangelist Philip Colani, who lives in Marconi Beam and preaches in the African Native Mission Church, said: "These people are suffering. I can't help them with money, so I help them by lending them my church. But we need a proper school."

ct reaches over 3,5 million children

War of the Dunns

Descendants of first white Zulu chief vow to stay on land despite squatters' death threats

HUNDREDS of descendants of the first white Zulu chief, John Dunn, are locked in a vicious land war with squatters.

The squatters have allegedly threatened members of the family with death, fired shots at workers, pillaged farms and set fire to huge tracts of farmland.

Members of the historic Dunn family, who farm about 2 700 hectares at Mangete on the Natal North Coast, say scores of

By RYAN CRESSWELL

squatters from neighbouring Kwazulu started moving on to their land about two months ago.

They say the squatters are dangerous trespassers who are breaking the law.

But the Zulu families who are moving into the area say they are just returning to the land they were "forced" to leave in 1976, when they were moved to Wangu near the Amatikulu River.

Mr Dan Dunn, farmer and chairman of the Dunn's Descendants Association, said local chief Inkosi KW Mathaba and one of his advisers were encouraging people to move into the area.

"They have publicly said they have declared war on the Dunns," he said. "We are now very angry, and we don't want things to get out of hand.

"We have tried to handle this diplomatically, but we will have to ask the authorities to start demolishing huts soon. We will also prosecute people for trespassing."

Mr Dunn claimed squatters had burnt about 400 hectares of veld and cane, slaughtered animals, torn down fences, filled in boreholes, shot at workers and threatened to kill family members.

Another member of the family, who asked not to be named, said: "After I received death threats, I was forced to move to Mandini. Now I stay with my family at a relative's house.

"Meanwhile, these people are breaking into my house and building on my land."

But one of Chief Mathaba's councillors, Mr MA Dube, said he did not believe the squatters were destroying fields and threatening people. The Dunns had not made a formal complaint.

Trespassing

"These people are just trying to move back on to their original land," said Mr Dube. "We believe they have a right to the land, but the chief has never encouraged any type of destruction or violence."

Kwazulu chief minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi recently wrote to Mr Dunn about the issue, and said if people were trespassing, the law had to take its course.

The story of the Zululand Dunns and their land goes back about 140 years.

John Dunn was born at Port Natal, now Durban, in 1834. He eventually became a hunter-trader, and in 1856, he was invited by Prince Cetswayo to settle in Zululand and become an adviser.

Cetswayo gave Dunn occupational rights to lands along the southern Zululand coast, from the Lower Tugela up to Ngoya.

Dunn soon married dozens of wives and gathered hundreds of cattle. By the 1870s, he was one of the most powerful chiefs in Zululand and ruled over 7 000 subjects.

In 1879, the Anglo-Zulu war broke out and Lord Chelmsford forced Dunn to side with the British.

Later, the British gave Dunn the largest of 13 chiefdoms in Zululand, but when Cetswayo was released from prison, he stripped the white chief of much of his land. Dunn was relegated to a minor chiefdom in the Mangete and Emoyeni areas.

After his death in 1895, natural calamities dispersed most of his descendants.

In 1902, the Zululand Land Delimitation Commission was instructed to reserve two slices of land for the Dunns at Mangete and Emoyeni.

Both areas were included in the Zululand Native Trust Deed of Grant, created in 1889, but the community never really merged with the rest of the local population and kept their identity.

The Dunns wanted freehold tenure, but the Zulus living on the same land were content with communal ownership. Between 1920 and 1935, people from both groups often attacked each other.

Consultation

In 1935, when the John Dunn Bill was passed, each descendant of John Dunn was awarded a plot of land, but the law was not fully implemented for many years.

In 1976, Zulus living on the land were moved to Wangu after consultation with the Kwazulu government, and a few years later, the Dunns began receiving title deeds.

Many members of the family then moved back to Zululand to farm.

While the Zulu families moving back claim the land is rightfully theirs, the Dunns say they are also part of Zululand, and won't budge.

1/8/43

(308)

STIMES



THIS LAND IS OUR LAND . . . Dan Dunn, who says his family intends to prosecute squatters for trespassing Picture: HORACE POTTER

Village for squatters is growing well

WORK on the development of the Mizamoyethu Village in Hout Bay is well under way.

Following the completion of the first large section, section three will be finished by the end of August and the development of part two will begin as soon as the present residents have moved to parts one and three.

Speaking to the Atlantic & Waterfront Review last week, Cape Provincial Administration spokesman Ms Melanie Dedekind said the Regional Services Council still occupied part four and development there would only begin next year.

She said: "The existing buildings on part four will be used by the residents for education and community activities."

A waterborne sewerage system has been installed which will be connected to the new Hout Bay sewerage system near the harbour.

"Until the toilets are operational, a lined pit system, which is cleaned regularly, is being used," she said, adding that a flush toilet, with a basin and tap on the outside, had been provided on each site.

Electricity has already been supplied to the community centre and will be connected to the permanent network in future.

Health awareness

"Street lighting has been specifically designed to provide soft but effective lighting on the ground while the Cape Town City Council will install prepaid meters on request at subsidised rates," Ms Dedekind said.

In addition the CPA is funding the training of netball and soccer coaches and a health awareness forum has been formed by members of the community, the Hout Bay Liaison Committee and the health organisations concerned.

The clinic offers a variety of services including immunisations, Aids awareness programmes and family planning. Labour is organised on site by the labour committee.

Ms Dedekind said: "The contractor tries to employ and train as many local labourers as possible."

Civic leaders will receive general training in local authority matters.

Ms Dedekind said the CPA had produced a newsletter to keep Hout Bay residents abreast with the plans.

"This will be sent to Hout Bay residents this week," she said.

Once completed, the village will consist of 594 serviced sites which is just enough to accommodate the existing residents.

Name for Site 5 soon

(307) CT 3/18/93

A NEW name for the Site 5 informal settlement on Kommetjie Road has been submitted to the place names committee for approval and a list of street names for the area has been decided on.

A Cape Provincial Administration spokesman said last week the development of the site was progressing satisfactorily. She said: "A community committee has been elected to represent residents.

"The design of the community centre has been completed by CPA Technical Services. The committee has approved this design and construction is expected to start soon."

Work on a clinic would also begin soon, she said. The sports fields include a soccer field, netball and tennis courts and a pavilion.

Four churches will be represented in the area.

CAPE

'Sun City' squatters to get township services

(307) ARG 25/8/93

☐ Power of negotiation scores over conflict politics

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

SUN City squatters on Sir Lowry's Pass will soon be toasting the advent of piped water and sewage and refuse removal.

This is thanks to the power of negotiation rather than conflict politics, says Michael Dimech of the Sir Lowry's Pass Development Committee, a committee of farmers and residents formed in 1991 to upgrade the area.

Mr Dimech said the development committee was approached last year by the Sun City committee for help in obtaining services.

"One section of the community was asking the help of another.

"The discussions were friendly and conducted in a spirit not normally found in today's volatile climate. No demands were made," Mr Dimech said.

The development committee had long negotiations with the Regional Services Council, Cape Provincial Administration, the House of Representatives and the Sir Lowry's Pass Management Committee.

The management committee supported the provision of services for the squatters, he said.

"After many frustrations and delays the necessary authority for all three services was granted this week."

To his knowledge, the achievement was the first time:

- A management committee had fought for the provision of services in a squatter community in its area;
- All three services were initiated in an unregistered squatter camp;
- A squatter community was paying for services at its own request; and,
- All three services were grouped together for the purpose of payments to be made in advance.

Mr Dimech said R1 paid for 25 litres of water, and covered the costs of sewage and refuse removal.

He said this charge was for a three-month trial period and he expected it to be reduced.

"We are proud that our community, the management committee and the authorities have been able to work together to achieve the aims that each subscribes to individually, but today seldom seem to achieve without confrontation," Mr Dimech said.

Squatter school gets welcome assistance

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

HOPE is beating in the hearts and on the desks of the 260 children at the community-managed primary school in Marconi Beam squatter camp near Milnerton.

The school is a structure of wood and cardboard, which had virtually no books, a few broken desks and three splintered blackboards until yesterday.

Now, thanks to a Constantia school and an educational publishing company, relief aid has come for these children. Yesterday boxes filled with textbooks, writing paper and stationary were brought to a classroom by representatives of Herzlia Primary School in Constantia and Maskew Miller Longman publishers. Herzlia also handed over a cheque for R105.

This educational deed followed a recent Weekend Argus report on conditions in Marconi Beam where voluntary teachers who live there have been teaching children since January without compensation, as the school is not registered with the Department of Education and Training.

Maskew Miller Longman director Robert Marsh said after the existence of the school was brought to his attention he and his colleagues visited the school to assess the pupils' needs.

He said his colleagues were "tremendously impressed" with what was being done at the school and "it took no convincing at all to get us to want to give some sort of assistance — education being close to our hearts".

Principal Elda Mahlentle thanked the Herzlia pupils and the publishers and said after the previous Weekend Argus report appeared many individuals visited the school with offers of help.



Picture: DOUG PITHEY, Weekend Argus

☐ **DELIGHTFUL DONATIONS:** Marconi Beam primary school pupils were thrilled to get much-needed donations of books, stationary and money from the standard four pupils of Herzlia Primary School in Constantia and Maskew Miller Longman educational publishers. Pictured are representatives of the two schools and the publishers.

Battle for hearts of squatters is looming

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

A FIERCE national power struggle for control over squatter areas is looming as the controversial Western Cape United Squatter Association (Wecusa) prepares to challenge the Civic Associations.

The plan to launch Wecusa nationally – recently at the centre of a probe by the Goldstone Commission on violence in Crossroads – was confirmed by Wecusa's leader, controversial ex-ANC leader Jeffrey Nongwe.

Wecusa's plans have raised questions about a possible hidden agenda by the association alleged by the ANC to have been infiltrated by intelligence agents – an allegation denied by Nongwe.

Wecusa is alleged to have enormous contacts for housing and development, the mysterious Conrad Sandile, alleged at a Goldstone Commission hearing to be an MI agent.

Sandile – dubbed a mystery man by Goldstone Commission chairman Neil Rossouw who is probing causes of violence in Crossroads – disappeared from Duduza in June 1985 after booby-trapped handgrenades killed and mutilated Cosas activists in Kwa-Thema, Tsakane and Duduza on June 25 that year.

The ANC said the plan was likely to set the stage for political clashes with existing civic structures over the right to organise in squatter areas.

Nongwe was recently suspended from the ANC as leader of its Crossroads branch.

The ANC's PWV re- ■ To Page 2.

Battle looming over squatters

■ From Page 1

gion chairman, Tokyo Sexwale, expressed concern at what he calls a "similar pattern" of the sudden emergence of divisions in squatter areas on the East Rand.

City Press has discovered that Sandile has been meeting squatter leaders on the East Rand, including the controversial Joseph Mabe of Duduza whose committee has cut links with the existing local civic.

Conflict between Wecusa and Sanco in the western Cape has a long and bloody history against a backdrop of murder, arson and abductions – and allegations of police complicity.

The activities of Wecusa's executive members have raised concerns.

Last month Nongwe, accompanied by executive members Conrad Sandile and Jerry Ntuli, met three Ciskei ministers, including its finance minister.

The ANC has alleged that a similar meeting between Wecusa and Inkatha was recently held in Cape Town.

Last month, senior executive members of Wecusa, including Nongwe and Sandile, gave evidence before the committee probing causes of violence in Crossroads.

After hearing evidence, the committee's chairman Rossouw – former Attorney-General of the Cape – decided to launch an investigation into possible involvement of the MI in the destabilisation of the WC.

According to sources within the Goldstone Commission probing causes of violence in Crossroads where Wecusa and Sanco have clashed, there was evidence following an aerial survey that Sections 2 and 3 held by Sanco had been ravaged while Wecusa's Section 4 remained intact.

Sandile has been linked to Prince Gobingca, the self-confessed MI agent who led the rightwing Witdoeke attacks on Crossroads in Cape Town in 1987.

Attempts to reach Sandile were unfruitful.

Political comment and newsbills by K Sibiya, headlines and sub-editing by B Keswa, both of 2 Herb Street, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

CPA sets up historic joint committee with squatters

By NAZEEM HOWA

IN a historic move, the Cape Provincial Administration has included squatter communities in a joint committee to draw up development plans for areas presently occupied by the shack-dwellers.

The squatter communities of Wallacedene and Bloekombos are to join a committee made up of local authorities, civic associations and farmers' organisations to compile a local structure plan for the area east of the present Kraaifontein and Brackenfell municipal boundaries.

Included among the organisations represented on the joint committee are the Western Cape Regional Services Council, the Kraaifontein and Brackenfell municipalities and the resident's association of Kraaifontein.

Job creation

According to Mr David Shandler, who has been appointed to chair the committee, the planning process will take about six months to complete.

He said another key area to be investigated by the committee was job creation in the area.

"We will also have to give some thought to establishing an urban edge as the metropolitan area is growing too fast for its own good," Mr Shandler said.

Agricultural land was being threatened by the rapid urban growth, he said.

The joint committee will supply policy guidelines to a technical sub-committee comprising appointed planning professionals, engineers and other technical experts.

Technical proposals will then be fed back to the joint committee for its response.

'Pupils should skip September holiday'

By AYESHA ISMAIL

MATRIC pupils would have to sacrifice their September school holidays in order to make up time lost due to the teachers' strike if they hoped to pass year-end exams, a spokesman for the Western Cape Principals' Forum said yesterday.

The SA Democratic Teachers' Union suspended its strike this week following agreements reached between the union, the three departments of education and the government.

The government backtracked on a key issue which led to the dispute, by agreeing to appoint substitutes in place of teachers who had accepted an early retirement package — but only until December.

Mr Eddie Snyders, co-ordinator of the principals forum, warned that principals would have to go through a lengthy process before appointing substitutes and the forum would seek an urgent meeting with the Department of Education and Culture.

Matric pupils in HoR schools start final exams on October 20, and Mr Snyders believes matric pupils should forego September holidays to make up for lost time.

W Coast cops, squatters clash

POLICE arrested two people when Vredenburg squatters tried to stop them demolishing shacks in the Ruth First settlement, attorney Mr Johan van der Merwe said yesterday.

Community leader Ms Eunice Hlobo was apparently arrested with another person, but was later released.

Mr Van Der Merwe said police demolished two structures before negotiations with community leaders began yesterday afternoon.

The municipality wants the community to move to other land. — Sapa

Kuils River marked for new settlement

CT 2/9/93 (307)

Staff Reporter

AN area of more than nine hectares in Kuils River near the R300 has been designated for informal settlement, Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring confirmed last night.

The R300 is regarded as a safe alternative road to the N2.

Several conditions have been laid down before the new settlement can be built, including the building of a 2,5m wall along the length of the area on its southern boundary.

Mr Meiring said he could not provide more details or comment on the matter as he had "merely signed it".

Mr Dawie le Roux, to whom he referred the Cape Times, was not available for comment last night.

Mandela holds private meeting with squatters

(307) (WP)

ARG 13/9/93

Staff Reporter

AFRICAN National Congress president Nelson Mandela has met Peninsula squatter leaders behind closed doors.

The meeting, from which the media were barred, was held at the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) premises in Philippi.

Sources said the meeting with the squatter leaders, all members of the Western Cape United Squatters Association (WCUSA), was held at the request of the leaders.

It is understood housing and squatter violence would be top of the agenda.

Pupils of the nearby Mandela High School tried to get a glimpse of the ANC leader by going to the venue as early as 9am.

But when they arrived the gates were locked and security men refused them entry.

Cape Town clean by world standards, says US expert

ARG 20/9/93 307

☐ But squatter problem 'a bit discouraging'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CAPE Town is a clean city by world standards, although there are obvious problem areas, says Keep American Beautiful special consultant Marilyn Tipton.

Ms Tipton is in South Africa for a month as guest of Keep South Africa Beautiful, hosting workshops for people involved in cleaning efforts and the waste industry.

She has several years' experience with the state of Florida's "Keep Florida Beautiful" campaign and other local American cleaning programmes, and is trained in volunteer work and organisational management.

"So I do training and problem solving and trouble shooting and that sort of thing," she explained.

"From my grassroots experience and background, I have the knowledge to go out and help communities establish themselves and set objectives and really make the 'Keep America Beautiful' system work."

The key to the success of the system was to pool all available resources, build a strong co-ordinating organisation such as the Fairest Cape Association and "channel all their energy into positive action".

Littering was a world-wide problem, she pointed out.

"I don't think you have any problems that other communities don't have."

Her first impressions were that Cape Town was a clean city by world standards.

"Although obviously the squatter situation out by the airport is a bit discouraging, both for local people and for visitors," she said.

While there was an awareness of these problem areas, there was still a need for an effective infrastructure to deal with them, involving all sectors of the community.

"Part of our approach is to understand the attitudes and behaviours and situations that exist, to take a realistic look at those and from that point you can begin to develop programmes to solve those problems and to change behaviours," Ms Tipton said.

"You can't just window dress — you must truly look at what the attitudes and feelings are of the community.

"There's a tendency in any community to want to blame some group or somebody else. What we say is that it's everyone's responsibility. We all have to work togther to solve these problems."

Her programme was designed to help people understand the solid waste issue and that there are many methods of dealing with this, Ms Tipton explained.

"Litter is only a symptom of a bigger problem — that of mismanaged solid waste."

Philippi 'islanders' angry

(307) CT 13/9/93

Staff Reporter

ANGRY landowners in the Klipfontein area of Philippi claim the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) has surrounded them with squatter camps that have devalued their land and placed them at personal risk.

"The CPA has blocked us in — we are surrounded by squatters," Mr Dennis Hammond, one of the residents said.

Mr Hammond lives near the R300 and Lansdowne Road. He said the state purchased the land around them, "leaving us on an island".

The group of about 20 families are unhappy about the "30 000 squatters".

He said livestock had been stolen and houses burgled. "Our livelihoods have had to change because our assets have been affected," he said.

CPA spokeswoman Ms Melanie Dedekind said the CPA was buying more properties as part of a plan called the Philippi East structure plan.

New tasks for UWC professor

CT 24/9/93

PROFESSOR Nasima Badsha, head of the academic development centre at the University of the Western Cape, has been appointed executive assistant to the rector, Professor Jakes Gerwel, for 18 months.

She succeeds Professor Njabulo Ndebele, who left the university last semester and is now rector of the University of the North. Prof Gerwel said in a staff note that Prof Ndebele had made a marked impression during his 18 months at the university and would be missed.

Prof Badsha will be responsible for academic development, student services, development and student selection.

She has taught science in London and at the universities of Durban-Westville and Natal and worked in the University of Cape Town's alternative admissions research project for three years.

Prof Badsha has a B Sc (Honours) degree from the University of London, a Graduate Certificate in Education from the University of Leeds and an M Sc from the University of Natal.

She was appointed associate professor earlier this year.

Du Noon funds: Plan to finance other sites

(307) CT 24/9/93

MILNERTON Municipality is planning to use part of the R2-million apportioned for the controversial Du Noon informal settlement to provide services for two other squatter areas in Table View.

The municipality had applied to the Cape Provincial Administration to use the funds to provide services water, refuse removal and sewerage at West Bank squatter settlement and for the Doornbach community near Killarney Race Track.

The two communities have a total population of about 900.

Mr Chris Potgieter, spokesman for the Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View which has been vociferously opposed to the Du Noon settlement, welcomed the move, saying it was long overdue.

Four taps

The municipality said that if the CPA had difficulty with the scheme it would use R34 000 from the Du Noon fund to finance the scheme.

It was intended to install four taps and 10 toilet units at Doornbach and two taps and three toilets at West Bank.

The municipality would be responsible for a black plastic bag waste removal.

Meanwhile a plan to develop a squatter settlement on nine hectares of Kuils River Municipality land is going ahead after a hitch was experienced when the municipality and squatters accused each other of contravening agreements.

The municipality has agreed to provide an extra R35 000 for the project.

In terms of an agreement reached earlier this year, the council would supply land in Kalkfontein.

She got warring gangs to cool it



and seven) and senior

Marconi Beam: Tuning in to future

AUG 18 9 93
307

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

A WORKSHOP to consider recommendations about the future use of the Marconi Beam site will be hosted by the Milnerton Forum next Saturday. The invitation to the all-day workshop, at Bothasig Town Hall, states that the aim is "for all parties to publicly state their proposals and through negotiations reach consensus as to areas and usages, as well as time projections for development and infrastructure".

It also states that "it is intended that the workshop reach consensus on a detailed brief to the professional planners engaged by the Milnerton Municipality to prepare a local area structure plan as part of their present commission to prepare an overall structure plan for Milnerton".

The site is owned by Telkom.

The workshop chairman will be project consultant Bev Mitchell.

More than 60 parties, including all the major political parties, developers, environmentalists, ratepayers' associations, South African National Civics' Organisation (Sanco) and the police have been invited to attend.

Asked about the role of the Marconi Beam squatters in the proceedings, chairman of the forum Martin Holland said: "Marconi Beam constitutes about 200 hectares. The squatters only occupy about 1½ or two hectares.

"It is a massive piece of land. This is not squatter business. We are talking about industrial development."

He said development of the area would be a long-term project. Low-cost housing would be a high priority.

The squatters were represented on the Milnerton Forum, he said.

Sanco regional deputy chairman John Neels said: "I hope the meeting will level the playing fields. The main concern is to address the land-need of our people."

Mitchells Plain

CT 25/10/93

(307)

squatters to go

Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council has acted decisively on the Mitchells Plain squatter invasion by obtaining a court order to evict more than 100 families who occupied a new housing estate in Tafelsig last week.

The squatter families were notified at the weekend that they have until Wednesday to move back into Khayelitsha, council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said

He said that "hordes of squatters" had poured within about three days into unoccupied houses in the estate, which was funded out of the House of Representatives' housing budget exclusively for coloured families.

Police have stepped up patrols in the area following threats by Mitchells Plain gangs to attack

'Hordes' evicted by court order

and drive the squatters back.

Residents, meanwhile, are caught in the crossfire with squatters vowing to burn their houses down if they are thrown out.

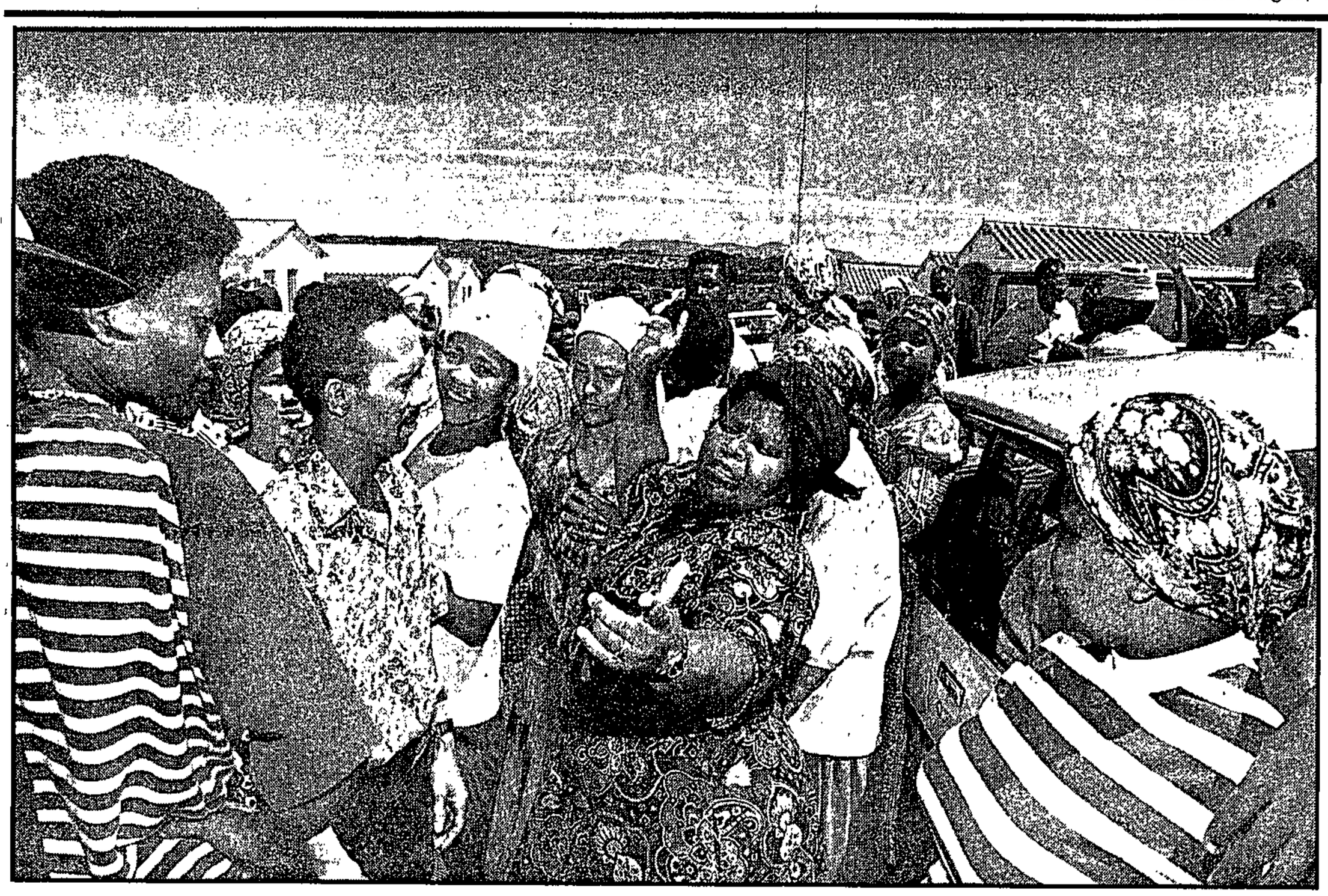
Strandfontein District Council spokesman Mr Jacob Travers said about 40 residents had complained of harassment by the squatters, some of whom had demanded residents' house keys to try to gain access to unoccupied homes.

He said about 240 coloured families occupied one side of Tafelsig while about 160 houses near the Khayelitsha border, including many unfinished homes, were being illegally occupied by squatters.

Mr Doman yesterday dismissed as "absolute nonsense" allegations by residents that security guards hired to protect the houses had been selling keys to squatters.

He conceded that the City Council should have acted faster in filling the houses once they became available over a week ago, but said efforts were hampered by difficulties in tracing the allocated owners — some of whom have been on the 40 000-strong waiting list for 10 years.

A meeting of all affected parties, including a squatter action committee and the Western Cape Peace Committee, will be held in the civic centre at 10am this morning.



☐ **CLASH:** A crowd arguing in the street. Picture: WILLIE de KLERK, Weekend Argus.

Police called in to monitor Tafelsig 'squatters' tension

307

ARG 23/10/93

LENORE OLIVER
Weekend Argus Reporter

ALL entrances to Tafelsig in Mitchell's Plain will be monitored by police, representatives of the peace committee and residents to prevent more people from occupying new houses "illegally".

This was decided at a meeting between Mitchell's Plain police station commander Gys Engelbrecht, City Council housing chairman Neil Ross, members of the peace committee and the African National Congress, following the "illegal" occupation of new houses built by the Cape Town City Council.

It was also decided that the police presence in the area be increased. The ANC said it would send out peace messages on radio stations and also would distribute pamphlets encouraging people to resolve the situation peacefully.

Residents also asked the council to notify people who had been allocated houses not to move in until the issue had been resolved.

There were unconfirmed reports of violence and intimidation in the area.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court made final an order for the ejection of six people who occupied the houses illegally.

The houses are part of a 500-unit development for qualified buyers on a waiting list of 40 000 families. Seventy-one of these houses had been sold.

But, by last week, people from townships near Mitchell's Plain arrived in droves to lay claim to unoccupied houses, saying all they were asking for was the "basic human need of roofs over our heads".

People who had moved in said their lives were being endangered by growing hostility.

The "illegal" occupants said a man in a white bakkie had offered them keys to the houses for R100.

Tension ran high at the meeting as legal occupants voiced their opinions.

"We are people who have been on the waiting list for 10 years.

"We've been tolerant and now we get this," said Tafelsig Ratepayers Association chairman Riedewaan Isaacs.

"We demand that all illegal occupants be removed immediately," he said.

His views were echoed by many Tafelsig residents who felt their money had been wasted.

Mitchell's Plain police station commander Gys Engelbrecht said the local police, stability and dog units patrolled the area on a 24-hour basis.

"The police are doing everything in their power to maintain peace," he said.

City council housing committee chairman Neil Ross said the council did not know anything about the person in the white bakkie who handed keys to people.



☐ **ANGRY RESIDENT:** Tafelsig Ratepayers' Association chairman Riedewaan Isaacs makes a point at the meeting.

PEOPLE The peaceful side of life in Khayelitsha and Nyanga

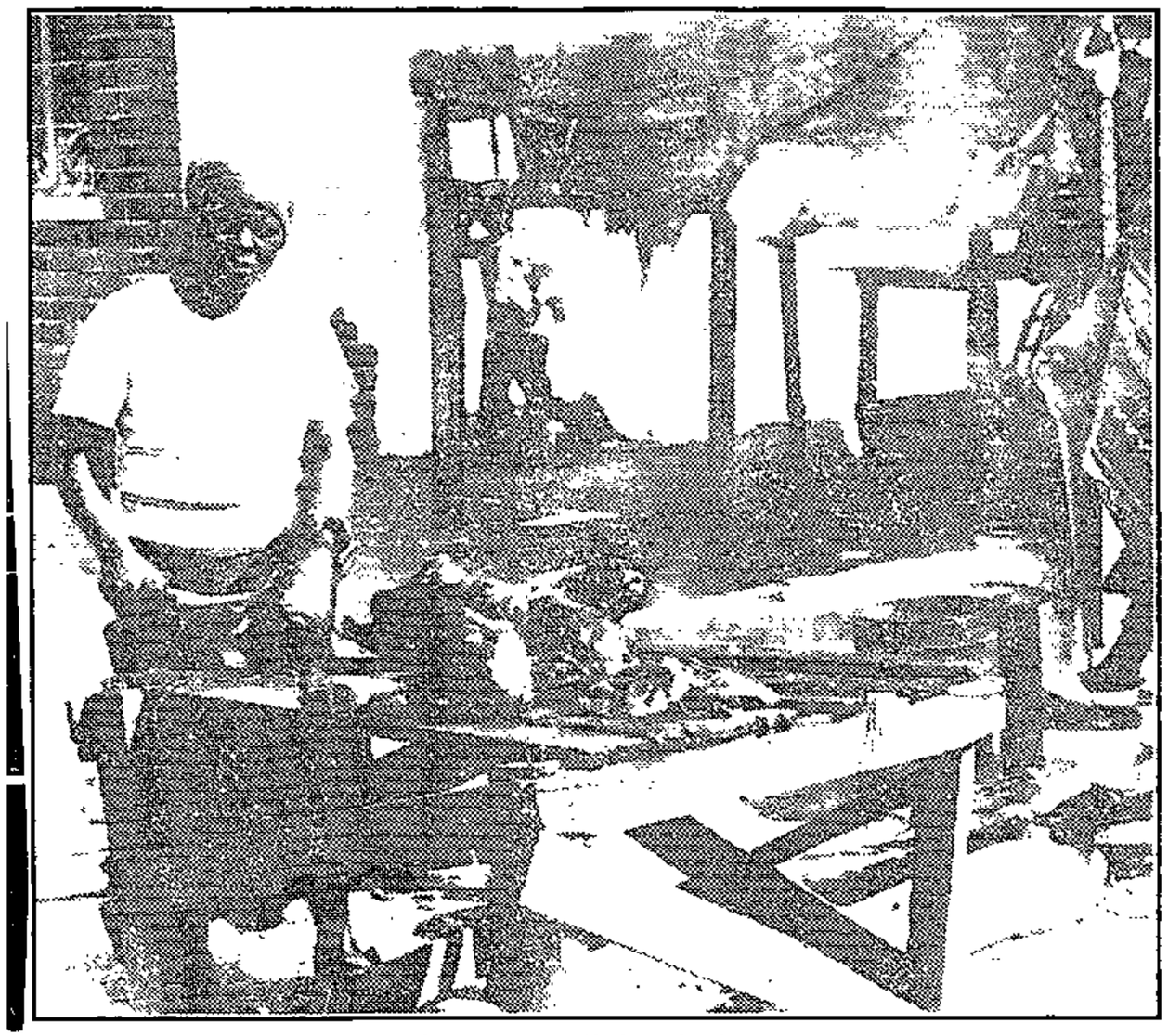
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Life in Cape squatter camps

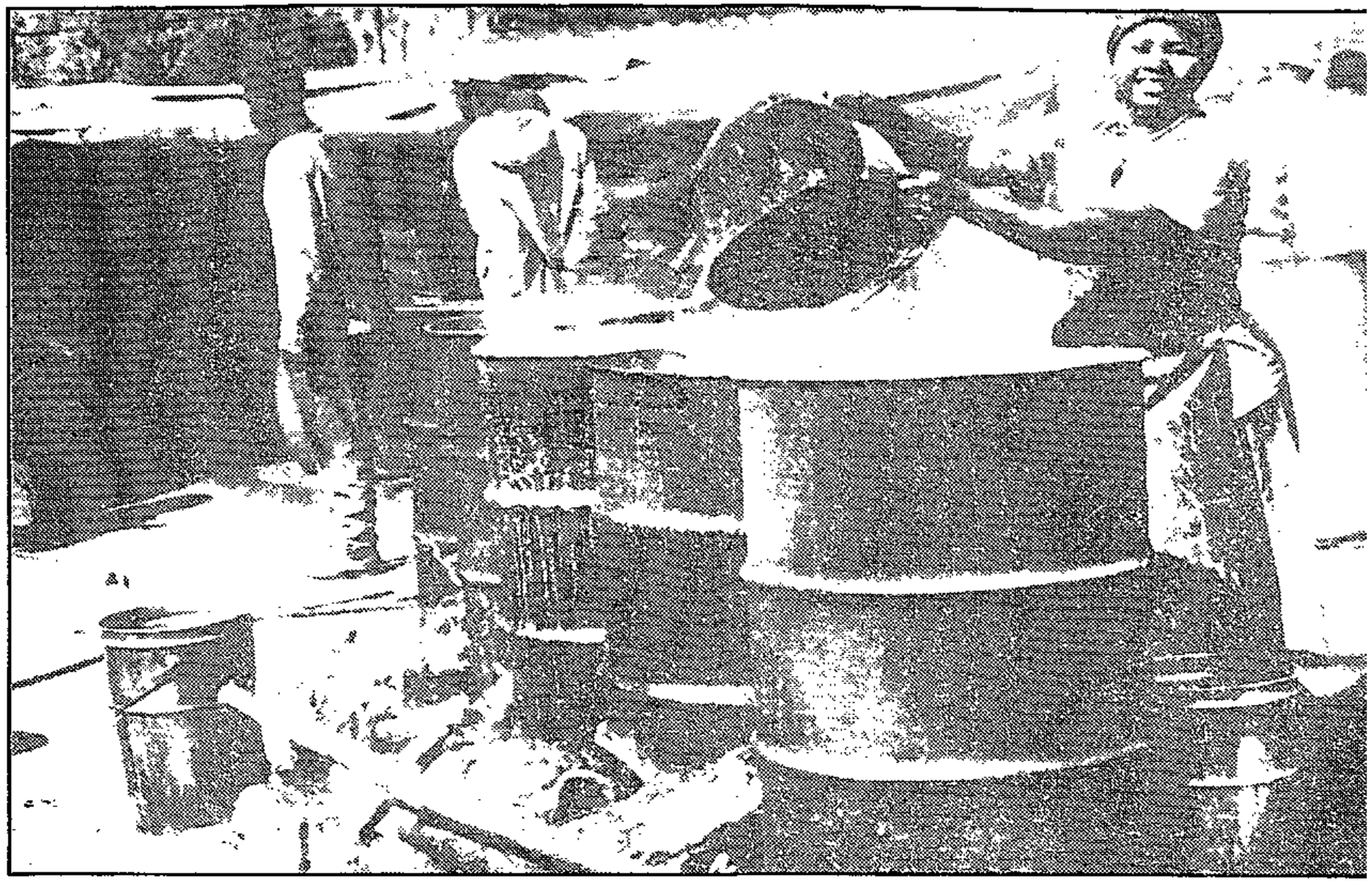
LIFE in the Cape squatter camps around Nyanga and Khayelitsha is as rough and ready as is in any of those in the Transvaal.
However, the daily pace in the Garden Province is somewhat slower than in and around Egoli.
Sowetan photographer Mbuzeni Zulu took a trip there recently and came back with these pictures that reflect daily life in the camps. Despite a taxi war which was raging at the time, things were quiet and the residents all friendly, speaking without fear to a stranger in their midst.



A Khayelitsha resident sobers up on a woodpile under the hot sun after a bout of heavy drinking — much to the amusement of other squatters.



Mrs Nomboniso Sirawu ekes out a living in Nyanga squatter camp, selling "*skop*" to residents. She collects her supplies from the abattoir and prepares them on an open fire.



The weekend lies ahead and this Nyanga shebeen owner begins brewing stock for her customers.

Hotel staff to be evicted from hostel

(30) CT 2/11/93

Supreme Court Reporter

AN offer by a "high profile" British company to buy a Guguletu hostel which housed Cape Sun Hotel employees yesterday led to the Supreme Court ordering the Sheriff to eject the hotel staff.

The hotel's lease on the hostel had expired on October 31, but hotel staff refused to leave.

An urgent application for the ejectment of the hotel workers was brought by G and W Leases CC.

Mr Justice D M Williamson, authorised the Sheriff of the Supreme Court to "use such force as may be reasonably necessary" to evict the workers.

Condition of sale

Southern Sun has been given 21 days in which to apply for the setting aside or variation of the order.

In papers, Mr Sydney Wolpert of G and W Leases CC said they had received an offer to purchase last week on condition that the hostel was vacant.

The buyer insisted on anonymity.

Mr Wolpert said a Southern Sun's official, Mr S R Doyle, told him "we can't get some of our employees out of the hostel".

G and W Leases wanted to accept the offer it had received, but stood to lose the sale if the hotel's staff were not out by 5pm yesterday.

● Sources said the interested buyer was a "high profile" British company. The company had been concerned though when the hostel dwellers had told its representatives, who were viewing the premises, they would not be leaving as the "civics" had told them they could stay on indefinitely.

Mr Keith Engers, instructed by Mr John Simon of Gelb Gelb Simon and Shapiro, appeared for G and W Leases CC.

Squatters: Legal action put on hold

SETTLEMENT negotiations between the City Council and various parties about the illegal occupation of 117 houses in Tafelsig led to the postponement till November 8 of legal action to have the tenants ejected.

The applications were brought by Peninsula Construction (Pty) Ltd.

We shall not be moved—squatters

ARG 2/11/93 307

☐ Chaos feared in Smartie Town

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE "illegal" occupants of 60 sub-economic houses in Hanover Park say they will not move unless the city council gives them serviced land and building materials as have been promised to squatters occupying houses in Tafelsig.

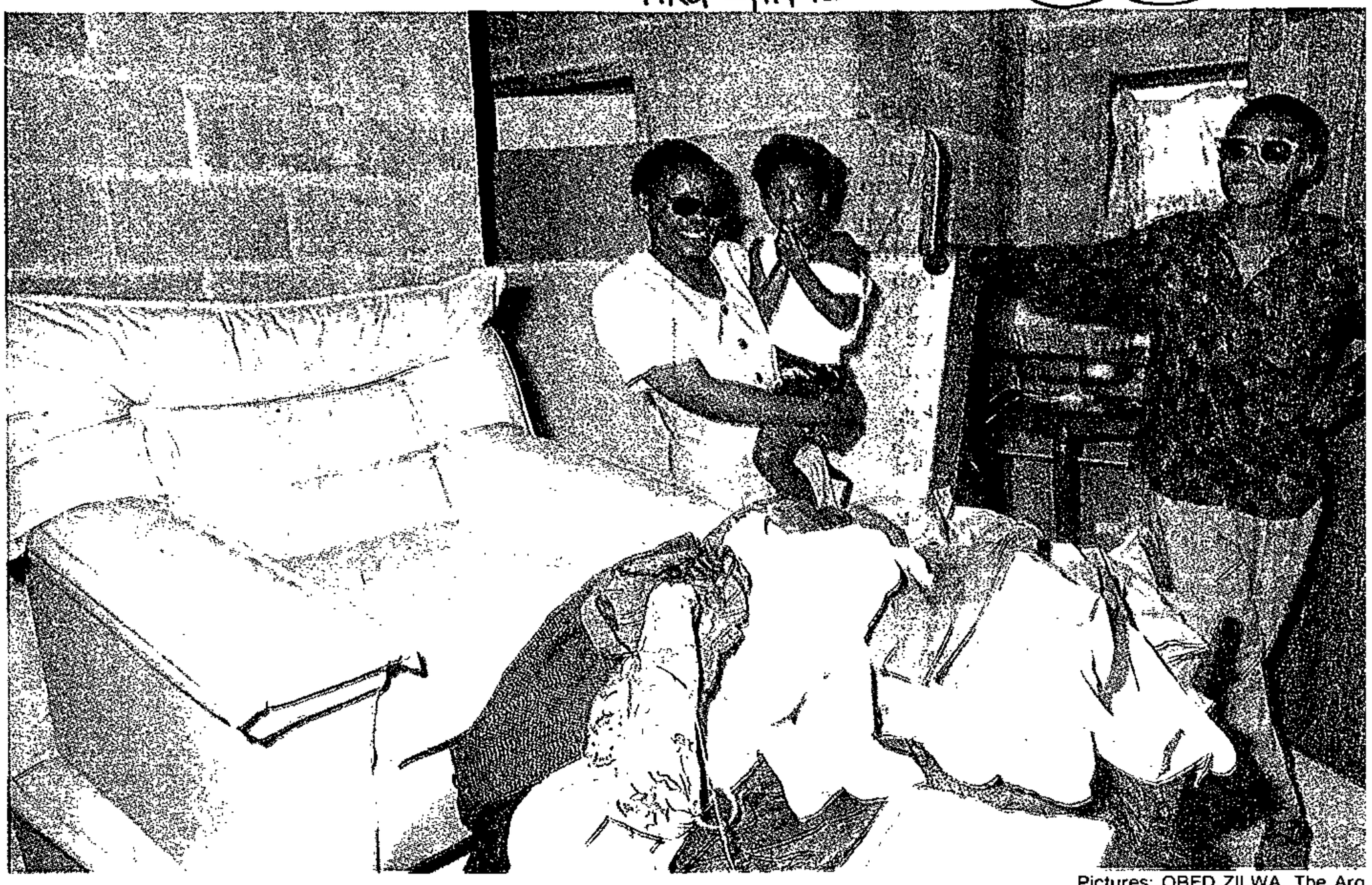
The Hanover Park squatters have the full support of Democratic Party regional executive member Jeff Leonard who says the Tafelsig occupations have set a dangerous precedent.

Just 13 of the 60 houses in Smartie Town — so-called because they are painted a variety of colours — are complete. Most lack water, electricity and sewerage.

"These people must not be put out because those people who occupied houses in Tafesig weren't," Mr Leonard said.

"The illegal occupation of houses is not the issue. The council had a court order to evict the Tafelsig people but that order was not executed. Why?" he asked after a stormy meeting in the Hanover Park Community Hall last night.

The meeting, called by the Hanover



Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Arg

Park Civic Association, threatened to degenerate into chaos when the Smartie Town squatters walked out after the association demanded they vacate the houses forthwith.

But the delegation returned and the meeting proceeded.

Association chairman Joseph Nefdt said: "We can't have the situation where every time a development nears completion people move in and demand land from the council. The council will refuse.

"If the council accedes to their request to make them legal tenants it will mean as soon as anyone moves out of a house anyone else can move in. We may as well throw the housing waiting-lists out the window.

"We see this as chaos and our position is non-negotiable.

Smartie Town delegation spokesman Frank Chisholm said squatters had moved in last Tuesday after rumours that outsiders were coming in to occupy the township.

"We are looking after the places. We have cleaned them up and started a neighbourhood watch.

"The contractors want to complete their work. We say come and speak to us, we can accommodate you, but we are not moving out."

Mr Chisholm said if there were Hanover Park people in greater need, they would consider accommodating them.

"We are pleased with and proud of those places and we intend to stay," he said.

Squatter Elizabeth MaCarthy said: "If we get a plot like in Tafelsig we are prepared to move out of Smartie Town. Otherwise the council must make us legal tenants."

● See page 8

MOVING IN: Shirley Ndabampi takes over an empty house in Tafelsig in spite of warnings by ANC leaders and others that illegal occupation is unacceptable. "I have nowhere else to go," said Mrs Ndabamp



WE'RE STAYING: An illegal occupant of a house in Smartie To Hanover Park, tells a rowdy crowd of fellow occupiers to be patient a wait for the outcome of last night's meeting.

Bid to break warlords' control of land allocation

Municipal Reporter

SITES in the R480 million Serviced Land Project on the Cape Flats will be allocated by multiparty committees to prevent a continuation of warlord control of housing.

Consultant Colin Appleton told the city council's utilities and works committee the project was aimed at identifying land for people in Langa, Guguletu, Nyanga, Philippi and Delft.

Landless families living in informal settlements, backyards and hostels occupied 56 000 sites in the area.

Assuming some would want to stay where they were, about 36 563 sites were needed.

The government housing subsidy formula was being used to calculate costs, but this could change once the national housing forum proposed an alternative formula.

So far, about 1 000 ha of suitable land had been identified for the project.

"It is not our intention to cover every square inch of ground, because of environmental and other considerations," Mr Appleton said.

People would have a choice of sites.

To be eligible for sites, people would have to be over 21, resident in the area, with dependants living at home, not the owner of any other property, and not already getting a state housing subsidy.

At 1992 prices, the project would cost between R472 million and R483 million.

Mr Appleton said the provincial administration might be able to contribute R20 million a year for five years, and the Western Cape Regional Services Council had voted R10 million for upgrading projects for next year.

Other possible sources of finance were the central government, Development Bank of SA, the Independent Development Trust, Life Offices Association and the private sector.

Tafelsig racing to have sites and houses ready for Christmas

(124) 307

ARG 2/11/93

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS in Tafelsig council houses may be accommodated on serviced sites by the end of the year, if all goes well.

City Planner Neville Riley said at a press conference at the civic centre yesterday that "everyone is working as expeditiously as possible" to see that families who legally owned houses would be able to move in before Christmas and squatters were accommodated on a site in the area set aside by the council.

The urgent work to defuse the housing crisis is the result of negotiations in the Tafelsig Working Forum, launched last week and chaired by facilitator Norman Arendse.

The forum is made up of representatives of groups including the Cape Housing Action Committee, the city council, Tafelsig Area residents, the Action Committee, the Regional Peace Committee, the Cape Provincial Administration, the South African National Civics Organisation and the Mitchell's Plain Management Committee.

The forum decided last week that if houses were occupied illegally in future, "normal legal processes would be followed".

The Tafelsig issue would be resolved by "agreed land allocation and the peaceful movement of people to the new land" and urgent representations would be made to the National Housing Forum to "resolve the issue of a joint non-racial waiting list".

The forum wanted it recorded that the occupiers were moving of their own free will and had no ulterior motive for occupying houses in Tafelsig.

The forum has set up a technical committee to identify sites and families needing to be moved.

Mr Riley said he hoped the sites, which are expected to cost about R2 000 each to service, would be ready by December.

Court orders squatters to be evicted

ARG 2/11/93

Supreme Court Reporter

A CAPE TOWN construction company has obtained Supreme Court eviction orders against the occupants of 115 houses in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain.

The application was brought by Peninsula Construction (Pty) against the people who began occupying new houses in the area last month.

Mr Justice Berman granted the order until November 8.

Last week, the Cape Town municipality, which was granted eviction orders against occupants of more than 130 houses, decided to suspend legal action against the squatters "in the interests of peace".

R50 000 plan to evict vagrants

(307) CT 4/11/93

By JILYAN PITMAN

THE Cape Town City Council will probably foot the estimated bill of R50 000 for bricking of spaces under the Stanhope Road Bridge in Claremont to prevent vagrants from using them.

This follows a complaint from Mr Hugh Bowen of Claremont who said the two spaces on either side of the railway line under the bridge, one side of which is closest to his home, were hiding places for vagrants.

"They have chopped down some of the trees next to the bridge which screened my property and have used the wood for fires.

"They are also fouling the spaces under the bridge and are indulging in anti-social behaviour," Mr Bowen said.

10 m wall

"This state of affairs has been going on for many years. The previous owners about five years ago discovered a dead horse had been chopped up and stored in the area for food.

"I feel it's now time to do something about the matter. I cannot build a 10-metre wall to shut them out and I have offered the council my assistance to sort out this problem."

Mr Bowen said he had sympathy for the homeless but was not prepared to put up with "sub-human behaviour".

The council agenda item on this matter stated the council had investigated the situation and "the only effective way to exclude people from the spaces under the bridge will be to enclose them with brickwork".

Full cost

The agenda also stated records had been checked but there is no agreement between council and the railway authorities regarding the maintenance and other responsibilities for this bridge.

"It is therefore unlikely that the railway authorities will accept any financial responsibility for solving this problem and council will have to bear the full cost," the agenda stated.

Plans to demolish the bridge will only take place when the Stanhope Road scheme is implemented and the date of the implementation of the scheme is still uncertain and "may be some years away".

Tenders will be called for the job and the money to pay for it would be allocated from the council's streetworks funds.

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Illegals agree to move out

Municipal Reporter

ILLEGAL occupiers of 60 "starter houses" in what is known as Smartie Town, Hanover Park, agreed yesterday to move out.

This agreement, reached at a meeting in the Cape Town Civic Centre, staved off a forced eviction which had been scheduled for yesterday afternoon.

Council spokesman Mr Attie van der Merwe said: "They are to move back to where they came from. The possibility was raised that some may not be able to do so, for example if someone else has been given their place in the meanwhile.

Date

"If there are such people, we will see if we can assist — but no promises will be made."

A committee has been set up to establish a date for the move.

Building contractor Mr Dave Fourie, whose workers retreated from the site when the illegals took over, was on the verge of evicting the occupiers on Monday when he was persuaded to hold back.

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Labour Party man probed over housing

ARG 4/11/93 (A24) (307)

Staff Reporter

THE Labour Party's Delft branch chairman Harold Apollis is being investigated by the fraud squad following allegations of a money-for-houses scam in the township, police have confirmed.

Mr Apollis, also chairman of the Delft Residents' Association and a member of the African National Congress, has been accused of allegedly being behind a scheme in which at least 20 residents were charged R200 each to move into new houses last month.

He has been suspended by the ANC, while the Labour Party has reserved judgment until the allegations are thoroughly investigated.

But Mr Apollis said he had stuck up ANC posters because the Delft Residents' Association had none of their own ... "it was the DRA that occupied the houses not the ANC ... and we did not charge any people R200".

"Those people making the allegations must come forward and meet me in court," he said.

This week Mr Apollis's "agents', Angie Landers, Ivan de Kock and Johan Titus, indicated being involved in receiving R200 "deposits", but said they were acting under instructions.

Ms Landers said: "We worked for him. We didn't feel we were doing anything wrong. If your boss gives you orders you cannot question them.

"Mr Apollis said the ANC gave him permission to occupy houses and those people in need of homes could be moved in.

"About 20 people paid their R200 to me personally and that money was taken to Mr Apollis. He kept half and the other half was given to us."

Mr De Kock said: "He put ANC posters up all over my house. My wife is angry; she says she cannot see out of the windows any more.

"He helped me with a house when I moved to Delft. He helped me but then he wanted to use me.

"On Sunday he made us all sign an agreement we wouldn't speak to anyone."

ANC regional secretary Tony Yengeni said it appeared there was a "systematic campaign on the go to undermine the ANC in the Western Cape".

"It has never been ANC policy to collect money for houses. Mr Apollis was certainly never mandated to do so."

Mr Apollis said: "I never got money from anyone besides from Angie, and all that money was returned to the people because Chris Nissen (of the ANC) told me to.

"I didn't ask for money; the agents did. We only did it to help people.

"The R200 was an agreement between the occupiers and the agents. None of us work," Mr Apollis said.

Police spokesman Captain Wickus Holthauzen said police were investigating allegations of fraud against Mr Apollis "and a few others".

ANC regional chairman Allan Boesak said it appeared Mr Apollis — and another suspended member Norman Macqueen — had joined the ANC to bring the organisation into disrepute.

Mr Macqueen — accused of being a National Party member— said the crisis in Delft had been orchestrated by the National Party, the Labour Party and the Delft Residents' Association.

DP man denies accepting cash

Political Staff

A MEMBER of the Democratic Party's regional executive committee has been accused of accepting R1 500 to secure a house in Delft for a Khayelitsha shack dweller.

Isaac Samuels has denied the allegations, and a member of the Fraud Squad said yesterday it was all a misunderstanding.

"Mr Samuels will hand the money back. It's a civil matter. There will be no charges."

Richard Bongani Makamba said he paid Mr Samuels, the DP's Manenberg chairman, in the party's Cape Town offices on May 28.

"I'm still waiting for my house. I've been trying for days to get hold of him. All he says is that I must wait."

Mr Samuels denied Mr Makamba had given him money.

Seven in court over occupation of Delft homes

ARGUS 11/93 (13) (307)

☐ Minister chairs crisis summit

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

Staff Reporter

SEVEN people arrested occupying houses in Delft last night appeared in the Bellville Magistrate's Court today on allegations of trespassing.

They are Dan Ntsmango, 40, of KTC and Norman Baba, 40, Thembile Madli Ngozi, 40, Miriam Hlamvusch, 27, Monica Manzi, 22, Derick Ngcelwane, 30, and Virginia Mithe, 34, of Guguletu.

They were not asked to plead and were released on R100 bail each.

The case was postponed to November 10.

The Minister of Housing in the House of Representatives, Gerald Morkel, chaired an emergency meeting today in an attempt to resolve the housing crisis, which threatened to plunge Delft into chaos last night.

House of Representatives housing director Mauritz Kloppers laid criminal charges against people illegally occupying houses in Eindhoven, a partly completed Delft housing development.

Police moved in to evict about 300 squatters — mainly from Barcelona squatter camp, Guguletu — but they refused to leave the area.

They spent the night outside, many babies and elderly folk among them.

Earlier, police, representatives of the Delft Forum — comprising 14 community organisations — and squatter leaders met at the Delft Civic Centre, but could not reach agreement.

Colonel Wally McKaiser, in charge of the police contingent, said a charge had been laid, forcing police to act.

"Please assist us by leaving the houses peacefully. If you don't we have to arrest you," he told squatter leader Thabo Bimba.

He said police would conduct their business "as humanely as possible" but insisted that houses could not be occupied.

Mr Bimba appealed for a night's grace, saying it was late and his people lacked transport.

He said he would have to consult his people but thought they intended to stay and would camp outside the houses if necessary.

Colonel McKaiser said as long as they stayed out of the houses they would not be arrested, and the meeting broke up.

Soon afterwards, two women were arrested in Eindhoven when they were found in a house and the situation turned ugly.

Squatters accused police of not giving them time to hear a report-back from the meeting, while a police lieutenant was heard urging his men to load people into vans.

Squatters who had occupied houses earlier were afraid to fetch their belongings in case they were seen by police.

Colonel McKaiser said the women had not been arrested, "they are just being kept". They were released later without being charged.

It became clear the squatters did not intend leaving the area. Mr Bimba said they feared others would occupy the houses if they left.

There was a tense stand-off between police and squatters on an open lot, punctuated by the firing of teargas. Police denied they were responsible.

About 8.30pm the police left and the squatters prepared to bed down in the open.

Delft Forum representatives distributed bread and fish and "legal" Eindhoven tenants gave squatters water and allowed them to use their toilets.

Ernest and Lana Buys, who moved in on Monday before their house was completed to avoid its being occupied, told squatters their doors were open until 10.30pm when they intended to go to bed.

Mr Buys said he would welcome any neighbours, regardless of colour or creed, as long as they were prepared to pay rent as he was.



GOODWILL: While Delft 'legals' were cosy indoors, 'illegals' had to spend the night outside.

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

Builders try to head off 'invaders'

(124)
307

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter ARG 4/11/93

BUILDERS of Cape Town City Council houses are trying to find ways to prevent illegal occupation.

Council project management services director Hans Smit told the housing committee that a method being considered was not finishing houses until the day legal occupants moved in.

Housing chairman Neil Ross said no houses should stand empty, even for a day.

Reviewing housing projects, he urged officials to avoid delays to prevent illegal "invasion" of land. The handing over of 500 houses in Mitchell's Plain had been delayed for a week because of illegal occupations.

Mr Ross is due to meet House of Representatives Housing Minister Gerald Morkel for talks today.

Mr Morkel said yesterday the council could have resolved the illegal occupation crisis earlier but it seemed that it feared falling out of favour with potential voters.

The council, unlike the Durban City Council, had failed to ask his department to allow one housing waiting list for all groups.



MINE: Alberthia Nqweniso moves into 'her' house in Delft. She was one of the hundreds who occupied 70 houses yesterday.

Squatters agree to leave Delft

Political Staff

DISGRUNTLED Guguletu squatters are set to leave Delft after a meeting with coloured Housing Minister Gerald Morkel.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by House of Representatives housing director Mauritz Kloppers, squatter leaders and representatives of organisations including the Delft Forum and the South African National Civics Organisation.

Mr Morkel said afterwards that proceedings had not satisfied everyone.

The meeting had decided to invite "the main role players such as National Housing Minister Louis Shill, Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring and the National Housing Forum" to a meeting on November 16.

"We are going to convene a meeting between residents, the Ikapa Town Council and the Cape Provincial Administration to see how these people can be accommodated."

Squatters had agreed to leave Delft.



CRISIS MEETING . . . Attending a meeting to resolve the Delft housing crisis yesterday were (front from left) Mr Nic Isaacs, HoR housing advisory committee deputy chairman, Ms Ellen Mbele of Guguletu, Mr Ken Lategan, MP Hanover Park, Mr Gerald Morkel, HoR housing minister, Mr Petrus Meyer, MP for Vredendal. (Back from left) Mr Mohammed Moses and Mr Wayne Koen of Delft, Mr Stan Simmons, MP for Delft, and Mr Andrew Moleon, Delft Forum chairman. Picture: STEWART COLMAN

Delft squatters deny agreeing to leave

CT 5/11/93 (24) (307)

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS illegally occupying Delft houses say they have given no undertaking to vacate the area, despite a euphoric joint press statement to the contrary issued by the House of Representatives housing ministry yesterday.

The joint statement followed a "volatile" four-hour meeting attended by 45 representatives of the Delft community, Guguletu squatter community, the South African National Civics Organisation (Sanco) and HoR housing minister Mr Gerald Morkel.

According to the statement, the parties resolved that Guguletu squatters should immediately vacate the sub-economic Delft houses, earmarked for coloured families, and return to their previous abodes.

However, questioned afterwards, the dissatisfied Guguletu contingent denied they had agreed to back down and said they had a right to invade homes that were allocated on a "racial basis".

Squatter leaders said they believed they could continue to occupy the houses until November 16 or until houses were built for them elsewhere, but were afraid of police action.

The statement said National Housing Minister Mr Louis Shill would be asked to provide funds for the immediate erection of starter houses primarily for the illegal occupants and it had been resolved that one, non-racial housing waiting list should replace the City Council's existing race-based lists.

Mr Morkel, who during a recess described the meeting as "volatile", said a meeting would be held in Cape Town on November 16 between Mr Shill, Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring, the National Housing Forum and the affected community organisations, after which the parties would form a working committee to take "concrete decisions on how to alleviate the squatter problem in the Western Cape".

The Ikapa town council would also meet residents within the next two days.

Squatters in Delft arrested

1924
307

CT 4/11/93

HoR asks police to clear homes

By EUNICE RIDER

SEVEN squatters illegally occupying new sub-economic houses in Delft near Blue Downs were arrested last night after a complaint was laid with police by the House of Representatives, which administers the area.

A police spokesman said three women and four men were arrested by the Delft and Bellville South police between 8pm and 9pm last night, and would appear in the Bellville Magistrate's Court this morning.

They had been warned to leave the houses at 4pm, police said.

Minister of Housing in the HoR, Mr Gerald Morkel, said last night that 70 houses had been illegally occupied by yesterday morning. Police confirmed last night that all the tenants had vacated the premises and were now on a piece of ground near their former homes.

In the past two weeks squatters have illegally occupied newly built sub-economic houses in Delft and Tafelsig in Mitchells Plain, "Smartie Town" in Hanover Park, and at a development in Durban.

Mr Morkel last night confirmed that his department had decided to report the illegal occupations to police and "to allow the law to take its course".

"I have tremendous sympathy for the homeless but the 70 000 families for whom the houses were built also have aspirations and are helpless against the tide of illegal occupations — some people have been on that waiting list for 11 years."

He said the squatter situation had "become intolerable" as they had "intimidated and openly threatened" security workers and contractors on the sites to hand over keys to the houses.

Mr Morkel said his department had been reliably informed that squatters intended to move into about 2 000 other incomplete houses — even before roofs, doors and windows could be fitted.

"It's sad this conflict should break out between the black and coloured communities. Because the occupations are so well-orchestrated we believe the squatters are being exploited by outsiders for political gain," he said.

Tafelsig squatters' council office sit-in

307 ~~124~~

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 70 squatters from Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain, occupied the offices of the city council's housing committee chairman Neil Ross today and said they would not move until their demands were met.

ARG 8/11/93

They said they wanted the same standard of houses provided for them as were provided for coloured people in Tafelsig.

The occupiers demanded that "a person in charge of providing houses at central government must come and address people".

All city councillors and officials were in a council meeting and Mr Ross was out of town.

Council spokesman Ted Doman said a council official would try to find someone in government to speak to the protesters.



SEEKING HOUSES . . . A group of illegal occupiers of houses in Tafelsig sit-in at the council's executive committee suite in protest against their impending eviction. The man in the suit is council negotiator Mr Barney Botha. Picture: BENNY GOOL

Sit-in follows protest by squatters wanting homes

CT 9/11/93 (207)

Municipal Reporter

A SIX-HOUR sit-in protest in the Civic Centre ended late yesterday, after an earlier incident in which 23 protesters burst into the council chamber during Cape Town's budget debate, chanting "We want houses".

The protesters, all illegal occupants of council houses in Area L, Tafelsig, walked about the council chamber, shouting.

They brandished pieces of cardboard with their handwritten demands before being ushered out by Mr Newton Adams of Sanco and other leaders.

Security officials locked the council chamber after them.

Town clerk Mr Keith Nicol reported later that about 70 people were occupying the executive committee suite, saying they would vacate the Tafelsig houses only if they were given houses of the same standard.

While some protesters remained in the exco suite until about 5pm, over 100 others held a lengthy meeting in the Podium Hall with Mr Chris Möller, a senior community services official from the CPA, and council housing spokesman Mr Ben van Rensburg.

The occupiers had said the only problem they had with a piece of land identified for them was that there were no houses on it yet. They wanted houses with water, electricity and sewerage.

Another meeting is due to take place this afternoon in the Civic Centre.

Meeting on house crisis delayed

ARG 9/11/93 (1)(2)(3)(7)

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

A MEETING due to be held today to discuss R72 million apparently available for housing, but not being spent because of squabbling among community organisations, was delayed this morning by the continued occupation of city council towm planning commiteee chairman Neil Ross's office by 15 Tafelsig squatters.

At stake is the draft agreement in terms of which the Cape Provincial Administration undertook to provide serviced land in Mitchell's Plain for the Tafelsig squatters as a temporary solution to the housing crisis.

The squatters, who disrupted the special budget meeting yesterday, spent the night in Mr Ross's office.

A condition of the meeting taking place was that all protesters leave the civic centre, a CPA spokeswoman said. This had been agreed "by all parties".

A key demand — apparently breaking the draft agreement — is the squatters' refusal to vacate the Tafelsig houses unless they are given houses of a similar standard.

Due to meet MEC David Le Roux — who raised the subject of the R72 million on the television programme, *Agenda*, on Sunday — are delegates of the Tafelsig Action Committee, the peace committee and city council executive committee head Clive Keegan.

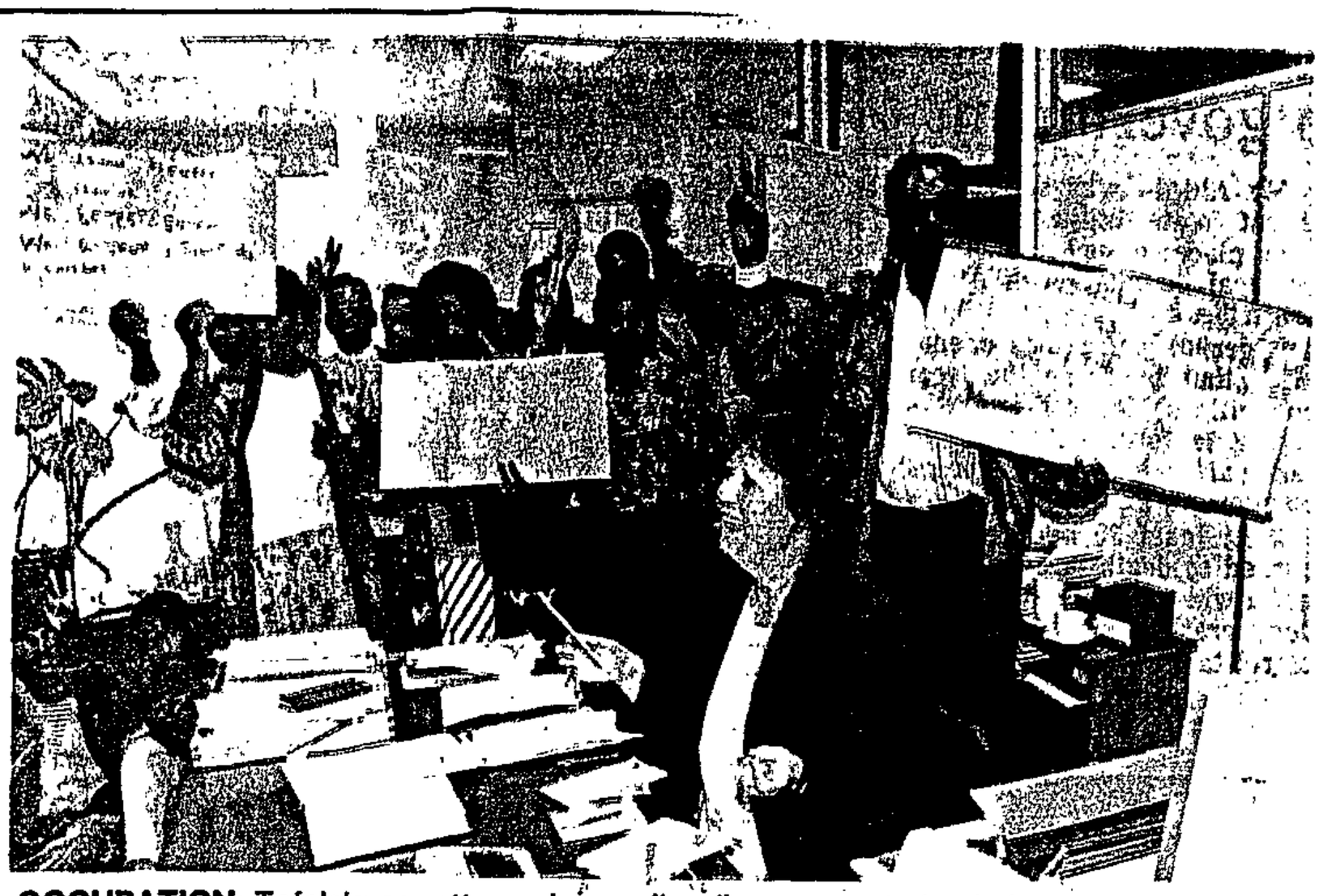
Mr Le Roux said the CPA was ready to spend the money, made available for housing by the government, but squabbling among community organisation had caused delays.

Western Cape Peace Committee spokesman Barend Hendricks said the squatters' actions were "directly attributable" to Mr Le Roux's remarks about the R72 million.

"They want the city council to pressure the CPA over the R72 million," he said.

Mr Hendricks said the squatters claimed they were unaware of the squabbles referred to by Mr Le Roux ... "all they want is houses".

● About 250 houses in Tafelsig were illegally occupied by squatters last month.



OCCUPATION: Tafelsig squatters, demanding 'houses, not shacks', start a sit-in at the office of city council housing committee chairman Neil Ross. Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

y, November 9 1993

Squatters invade council meeting

B1Day 9/11/93

CAPE TOWN — About 150 black squatters who recently occupied houses in a coloured suburb staged a sit-in at the Cape Town City Council offices yesterday to demand new homes.

Council spokesman Ted Doman said the squatters had occupied the executive suite and some placard-waving demonstrators had charged into the chamber while councillors debated the budget.

Doman said the squatters had agreed to vacate the Tafelsig houses they had occupied, on condition they were allocated houses of a similar standard "and not shacks".

They had been offered site and service stands in a nearby suburb, he said.

Mayor Patricia Kreiner adjourned the meeting briefly as security officials helped civic association leaders usher out the protesters.

Later councillor Arthur Wienburg said Cape Town had become a city where anarchy was growing.

The PAC, meanwhile, said the occupation of houses in the Cape and Durban was an orchestrated attempt to fan racial hatred.

PAC national executive committee member Patricia de Lille said in Bloemfontein it did not make sense that blacks and coloureds, who both suffered a serious shortage of accommodation, should be occupying each other's houses.

It could be understood if the occupation was in so-called white suburbs, where, she claimed, 300 000 houses were vacant (12 ...)

As it was now being done, it was clear political manipulation. (307)

The housing needs of the largest portion of the population were being manipulated by political groupings to win election "points". This situation could no longer be tolerated, De Lille said.

She said people should move away from viewing the housing crisis in a racial context as housing needs affected all South Africans. There were also whites who were homeless.

De Lille said the National Housing Forum should take action to find a way to make vacant houses in white areas available for the homeless.

Orange Free State University public administration department head Prof Koos Bekker said the crisis had arisen because politicians were so obsessed with political solutions that the basic questions that flowed from them were not addressed properly.

Bekker said most local authorities were not prepared for the demands of managing informal settlements. Meanwhile, thousands of people were doing what they could to put roofs over their heads. — Sapa-Reuter.

● Comment: Page 10

ANC: Leave squatters to politicians

JOHANNESBURG. — Squatters were beyond the law and their plight should be dealt with by politicians rather than the courts, ANC PWV deputy regional chairman Mr Mathole Motshekga said yesterday.

He argued that the squatter issue should be negotiated along with local government.

Addressing the Future Perfect conference organised by a local law firm, he said courts were not dealing effectively with squatters.

Citing land problems north-west of the city, Mr Motshekga said the courts had ruled that squatters had to buy land, even though they were not financially able.

Municipal Areas

For squatting to be illegal implied squatters had a legal option but they did not, said Mr Motshekga, concluding the squatter problem should be dealt with by politicians.

Emphasising the importance of addressing the issues of land and local government together, Mr Motshekga said giving municipal areas too much power could allow racist local governments to keep squatters out.

He stressed the need for government intervention on land issues, especially where landlords allowed plots and buildings to remain vacant.

ANC land and agricultural desk co-ordinator Mr Derek Hanekom outlined mechanisms required for a rural land reform programme, including land claims courts, targeting state-owned land, financing purchases and giving agricultural help to buyers. — Sapa

Agreement won't end occupation

ST Times (Metro)

THIS week's brokered agreement to end the illegal occupation of 260 homes by squatters in Tafelsig will not result in the immediate resolution of the simmering dispute. 14/11/93

And hopes of the 71 legal owners moving into their homes before Christmas are fading fast as the squatters are demanding houses of the same quality as those built for coloured people before they will move. (307)

A further point of dispute is likely to be which of the squatter families will not be catered for as some houses are being occupied by more than one family.

Milnerton squatter families agree to leave

307

Supreme Court Reporter

THIRTY squatter families on a Milnerton estate belonging to a company of which former politician Sir de Villiers Graaff is a director have been given until June next year to leave their shacks.

These were the terms of an out-of-court settlement yesterday between the squatters and Milnerton Estates Limited. ARG 17/11/93

Milnerton Estates brought a Supreme Court action against the squatters to force them to leave erf 10 099 in Bloubergrand as they were depriving the company "possession and use" of the land.

In terms of the court order the squatters have agreed to leave the land and remove any structures by June 30 next year.

They were also restrained from expanding any structures or allowing other people to join the camp.

Squatters face threat

ST Times 21/11/93

By AYESHA ISMAIL
and GEORGE MAHABEER

SQUATTERS occupying houses in Mitchells Plain have been threatened with eviction by the Cape Town City Council if they do not accept alternative housing arrangements.

And in Durban, squatters who have taken over houses in Cato Manor are expected to heed a plea by ANC president Nelson Mandela and move out within three weeks.

In Cape Town Mr Neil Ross, chairman of the council's housing committee, said negotiations had been exhausted with the black squatters who illegally occupied 260 houses in Tafelsig a month ago.

The squatters rejected a council proposal to move them to serviced sites nearby. The council also offered loans of R800 for building materials.

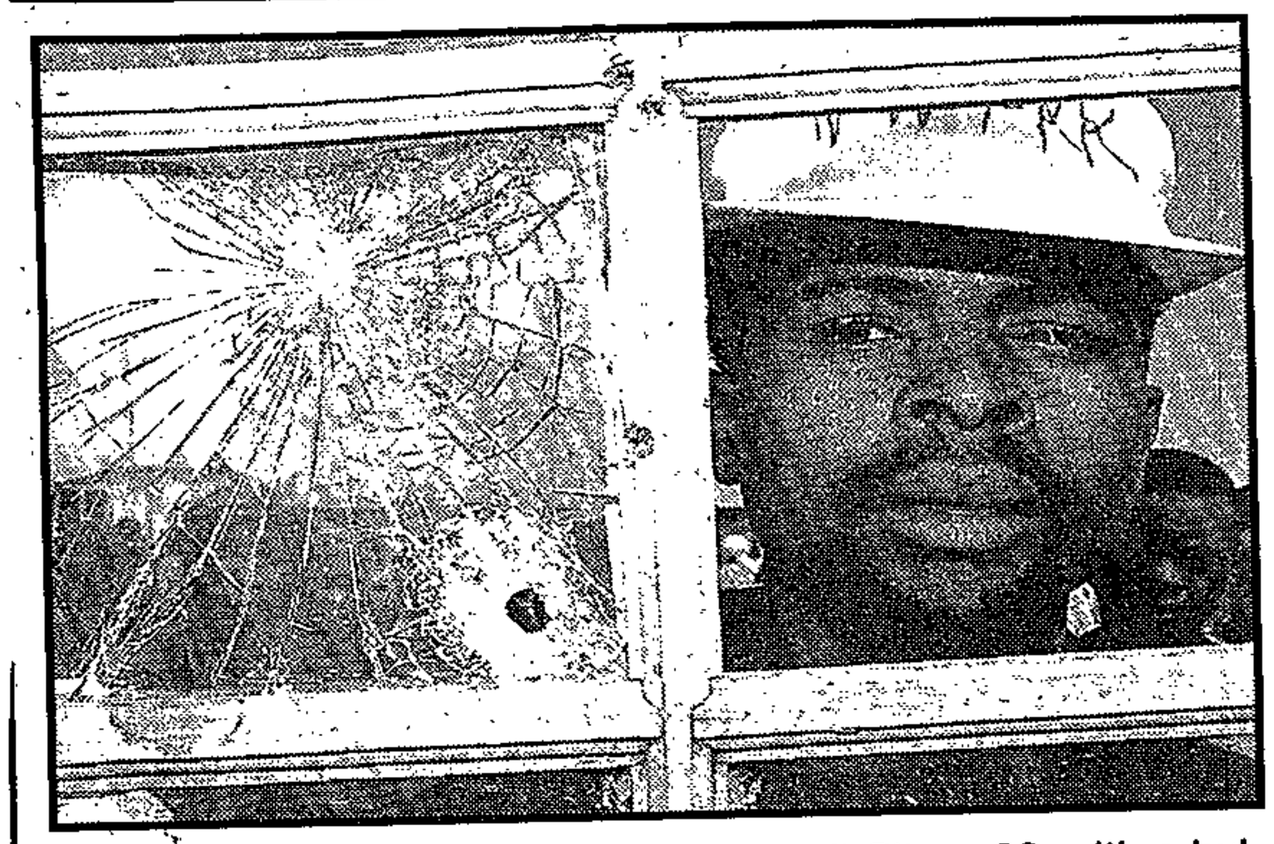
"Unless the squatters undertake to vacate the houses tomorrow we will have no alternative but to go the route of evictions," Mr Ross said.

Last month the Cape Town Supreme Court ordered the eviction of six families, but the council suspended legal action in favour of negotiations.

The squatters are demanding houses of the same quality as those provided for coloured people.

In Durban, the Chesterville Residents' Association and the House of Delegates are negotiating a deal whereby the squatters vacate houses allocated to Indian families and occupy those which are not sold.

The ANC's Temba Rubushe said a settlement between the squatters and the occupants was within reach.



SHATTERED: Khayelitsha resident Sidwell Citwa, 28, with a bullet-holed window after the fire that razed about 50 shacks.

2 die as blaze razes shacks

Atg. 22/11/93 307

Hooded men torch 50 homes

Staff Reporter

TWO men were burnt to death and more than 50 families were left homeless after eight hooded men torched shacks in Khayelitsha.

Terrified residents fled in their nightclothes as flames, fanned by a strong north-westerly wind, raced through a squatter camp in K Block, Site B, about midnight.

Police escorted Cape Town fire brigade units into the camp and firemen battled until 2 am to put out the blaze, which spread to about 50 shacks.

The charred bodies of Zenzile Adonis, 51, Mbgeni Qotyiwe, 26, and a dog were found in the debris.

Residents blamed eight men wearing balaclavas who poured petrol on to shacks.

A youth who did not want to be named said he believed the attack was prompted by a shooting in the area on Friday.

He said he saw three men shooting at the shack where one of the bodies was found about [illegible] before the fire started.

Another residents produced a window pane with a bullet hole retrieved from a heap of twisted corrugated iron sheets.

At first light hundreds of residents sifted through debris for possessions which survived the fire such as cutlery, doorlocks and coins.

Women and children cleared smoulderin[illegible] matresses, charred clothes and twisted, blackened window frames from the sites where their homes stood.

Men stayed away from work to rebuild shacks.

Hours after the fire a b picked up his bicycle which w still warm from the intense he of the fire.

Beds were reduced to twist metal and burnt springs.



Pictures: LEON MULLER, The Arg

NOTHING LEFT: A barefoot boy clutching a piece of dry bread walks past the place where his parents' shack stoc before the fire, which left his family with only the clothes they were wearing.

Squatters to meet council

36T
CT 22/11/93

260 homes in Tafelsig at issue

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS who illegally occupied 260 houses in Tafelsig a month ago will hold a crucial meeting with the city council today over threats to evict them unless they accept alternative housing.

Mr Neil Ross, chairman of the city council housing committee, said yesterday the council would have "no alternative" but to follow the due process of law unless the families vacated the premises.

"They have been offered vacant plots with some services near the present site and have also been provided with building materials. We hope they will accept the offer and we won't have to evict them," he said.

Mr Ross said it was untenable that 260 families had illegally occupied houses not earmarked for them.

The council, he said, had met with the squatters on Friday and following discussions they had agreed to go back to the community to make a decision.

The houses, he said, had been built for people who had applied for them since 1984 and there were 42 000 people on the waiting list.

There was no deadline for them to vacate the houses, he said. A decision would be taken at another meeting on a date yet to be set.

The black squatters have rejected the council's proposal to move to serviced sites nearby and are demanding houses of the same quality as those provided for coloured people.

Mr Ross said that squatters occupying houses in Hanover Park would also face eviction unless they moved out.

• Last month the Cape Town Supreme Court ordered the eviction of six families, but the council suspended legal action in favour of negotiations.

Tafelsig squatters agree to quit homes

307

GRG 23/11/93

Municipal Reporter

ILLEGAL occupiers of council houses in Tafelsig have agreed to move out without getting new houses first.

No date has been agreed yet but occupiers are expected to move out gradually, first vacating houses allocated to people on council waiting lists.

The occupiers were to meet the city council for talks today and attend a presentation on serviced land offered to them.

Tomorrow is the return date for a court interdict the council obtained against illegal occupiers.

pe Times, Tuesday, November 23 1993

Settlement in Du Noon land dispute

Supreme Court Reporter

A SETTLEMENT was yesterday reached in a Supreme Court dispute over the settlement of people at Du Noon.

In terms of the agreement, made an order of court by Mr Justice F Brand, the opponents of the scheme unconditionally withdrew their application against the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, and the Milnerton Municipality for a Supreme Court review of a plan to use the Du Noon land for the less formal settlement of "homeless people".

The Richwood and Table View Ratepayers' Associations, the Durbanville, Philadelphia and Malmesbury Farmers' Assocations, a partnership and five property owners withdrew allegations that the designation was invalid, and offered to pay their own costs.

Mr Meiring and the municipality also agreed to pay their own costs.

'Tafelsig squatters agree to go'

307

CT 23/11/93

Municipal Reporter

THE 260 illegal occupiers of council houses in Tafelsig, Mitchells Plain, have agreed in principle to move out — but have not set a date.

No date set for move to new site

Mr Norman Arendse, chairman of the Tafelsig Working Forum, said a public meeting had been held at the Nicro offices in Mitchells Plain on Saturday. There the occupiers had reluctantly accepted that they would have to leave without first getting new houses.

A bilateral meeting between the city council and the occupiers has been arranged for today. Yesterday's meeting in the civic centre was a meeting of the Tafelsig Working Forum.

Today, council technical experts are to make a presentation to the occupiers on the degree of services they can expect on the piece of land they have been offered.

There will also be a meeting of Housing Minister Mr Louis Shill's steering committee at lunchtime today in the civic centre. This is expected to discuss a non-racial housing waiting list, among other things.

Mr Arendse said the council had committed itself to further negotiation "with a view to upgrading" the new site to better standards than will initially be in place.

The first houses to be vacated will be the 71 which have already been allocated to specific persons. The council or its contractor will also be given access to unfinished houses so that they can be completed.

"People are going to move on a phased basis," Mr Arendse said.

He doubted whether the rudimentary services on the land the council had promised would be in place by Christmas.

Tomorrow is the return date of a court interdict the council obtained against the illegal occupiers. Mr Arendse said he expected that the council would ask for the date of the vacating of houses to be extended.

"The council does expect the first phase, of the 71 houses plus the unfinished ones, to be completed by Christmas," Mr Arendse said.

House squatters meet on move

(124) (307) CT 24/11/93

Municipal Reporter

ILLEGAL occupiers of 260 Tafelsig council houses sat down yesterday to discuss technical issues in preparation for their eventual move out.

Mr Neil Ross, chairman of the council's housing committee, confirmed that a meeting had been scheduled to take place between council technical experts and the occupiers' action committee.

Two alternative layouts of the extension to Area L were to be placed before the committee.

The squatters have been offered 6ha of land adjoining the disputed houses.

Initially, at least, full services will not be offered on the land.

Spokesmen for the occupiers have said they regard the acquisition of the land as a victory.

Another plenary meeting of the Tafelsig Working Group is due to take place in the Civic Centre today, Mr Ross said.

● A group of about 30 people from the Guguletu backyard shack community went to the civic centre yesterday to demand houses. Five of them held a meeting with Mr Ben van Rensburg, a spokesman for the council's housing committee.

● A steering committee set up by Housing Minister Mr Louis Shill last week met in the Civic Centre yesterday. Those taking part included the CPA, Sanco, the City Council, the House of Representatives, Wecco, the Serviced Land Project, Association of Management Committees, and representatives of Delft and Tafelsig.

Council plans 10% ceiling for budget

CT 24/11/93

(265)

Municipal Reporter

SENIOR Cape Town city councillors yesterday approved putting a 10% lid on next year's budgeted capital expenditure.

But it is not certain that the measure will be maintained.

City Treasurer Mr Eddie Landsberg said three factors that were unknown at this stage could affect the 1994/95 budget:

● Should Cape Town be nominated by Nocsa to bid for the 2 004 Games, some projects would need to be started in 1994/5.

● Restrictions imposed on this year's capital spending to protect the council's cash flow temporarily (after the rates debacle) may have a carry-over effect into next year.

● The "possible need" to assist former black local authorities in addressing the infrastructure backlog.

The first indications of unease from ratepayers over the Local Government Transition Bill came through yesterday, anonymously at first.

In some quarters, the bill is seen as "a model of racial favouritism", because 30% of seats on local authorities after local elections, for three years, will have to go to the black (as opposed to white and coloured) community. This applies throughout the country, so in most places whites are given disproportionate influence for years in local government.

e term 'blonde' has gative connotation'



FLASHPOINT: MITCHELLS PLAIN HOUSING CRISIS

'NP trying to bring back racism'

By Lisa Combrinck



NATS ON THE SPOT: NP members Mr Jacob Travers (left) and Mr Ronald Adams (next to him), talk to a disgruntled resident while a policeman looks on Photo: Yunus Mohame

South 29/9 - 2/11/93

NATIONAL Party organisers are cashing in on the illegal occupation of houses by African people in Mitchells Plain.

Mr Jacob Travers, public relations officer of the Strandfontein-Mitchells Plain District Council of the National Party, and Mr Ronald Adams, an organiser of the National Party, have been in Tafelsig every day since the housing feud began, registering residents as members of a ratepayers association.

On Monday Mr Travers was seen taking down the names and addresses of coloured people as they moved into the area to occupy their houses. Next to every name he also wrote the letters "NP".

When asked if he was registering people as members of the National Party and why he had written the initials "NP" next to residents' names, all he would say was "no, this is something else".

In the last week, homeless African people moved into the new, unoccupied houses in the area.

These houses were allocated to coloured people on the housing waiting list, but there was a delay in occupation, since the City Council was still trying to locate the owners. The council took the matter to court and got a court order forcing the illegal residents to move out.

Residents of the area complained that Adams had appointed himself chairperson of the ratepayers' association, without being elected by residents.

Mr Paul Isaacs, a resident, argued that the housing problem in the area was not a political issue, but one between the council and residents.

"Now that meetings are being held with the NP, now that a political party is involved, there will be a war in Tafelsig. (127)

"The NP are trying to bring the old racism back. They must stop. The NP have changed their symbol, but they remain the same."

Mr Shane Adams also agreed that the illegal occupation of houses should be worked out between the council and the residents.

He said the involvement of the NP was problematic.

"I only want peace. But this will lead to something big. It will lead to a riot," he warned.

Residents were divided on the question of the illegal occupation of houses by African families.

Mr. Isaacs said: "If black people come and live here lawfully, I will accept them as my neighbours".

Mr Kader Suleiman said: "I don't want to live with these people, because it is not right. I pay R360 a month. They will not pay this. But I am not going to move out." (307)

Mrs Constance Mpako, a mother of five children, who is one of the illegal residents said: "We moved in here because we are struggling and poor. We are not fighting. We are just trying to get places to stay. We are prepared to pay but they don't build houses for black people."

Mpako explained that she and family had come from Philippi wh their home burnt down.

"A coloured man in a white c sold us the key to the house R100 and he disappeared.

Mrs Booysen, another reside said that when she and her husba moved into their house, they fou that two people had occupied it.

The squatters left saying th would return for their possessions.

Although she is the legal occupa of the house, Booysen has been v ited by policemen delivering a co order and instructing her to app in court as the illegal occupant.

Council gets order for eviction in Tafelsig

ARG 9/12/93 (Ref) (307)

ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town city council was today granted a final order in the Cape Town Supreme Court to evict squatters occupying about 70 percent of the houses in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain.

A separate application relating to the remaining 30 percent will be brought in January because the occupants have yet to be named.

Mr Justice J Conradie granted the council and Peninsula Construction the right to evict a list of named occupants and their households, and interdicted them from occupying any other houses in the area.

A spokesman for the occupants, Thandisizwe Smile, said the squatters would not obey the order.

He said the squatters were negotiating an agreement with the council and had therefore decided not to respond to the court application.

"We are staying where we are until the council signs an agreement to give us proper services," he said.

"What we have learned here today is that the law doesn't protect the underprivileged."

Mr Smile said many of those named in the eviction order were no longer the occupants of the houses.

News blackout about squatters at Tafelsig

307 APCT 27/12/93

Staff Reporter

THE city council has slapped a news blackout on controversial Tafelsig after squatters there decided to stay put, in spite of an agreement with the council that they would move.

The agreement between the two parties was that at least 71 houses would be vacated by 5pm last Thursday to enable the rightful owners to move in, said city executive committee chairman Clive Keegan today.

Last month the council won a Supreme Court eviction order.

The agreement between the parties was that of the 276 illegal occupants 71 would vacate the properties and move to a serviced site made available by the council.

The rest would follow after the council had given them 14 days' notice to move to to the site, originally earmarked for a school.

The council would provide each squatter with a loan of R720 building material and would service the site.

But the squatters have refused to budge.

Thandisile Smile, chairman of the Tafelsig Action Committe, representing the squatters, said today the squatters were outraged by statements Mr Keegan made on Radio Xhosa on Friday.

Mr Keegan had accused the squatters of breaking the agreement.

Mr Smile said the squatters also felt badly about the council's failure to "stick to the agreements".

The squatters would adopt a "wait and see" attitude.

Illegal Tafelsig occupants clash with committee

307

EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

A ROW has erupted between illegal occupants of houses in Tafelsig and their organisation, the Tafelsig Action Committee, over the agreement reached with the Cape Town City Council last week to vacate the houses.

A source said the agreement to have at least 71 families move out before Christmas has pitted the action committee against the residents.

During last week's meeting the city council said the 71 houses had been allocated to people on the waiting list and deeds of sale had already been signed.

The agreement also stipulated that the remaining 205 houses would have to be vacated within 14 days of the council giving the illegal occupants written notice.

The committee was formed by the squatters to represent them in negotiations with the council since the trouble began more than two months ago.

The source said: "Most residents were so outraged by this agreement that only few turned up for a report-back meeting on the agreement at the weekend.

"Many feel betrayed, especially by that part of the agreement which says 71 families must leave by December 24. Their argument is that the committee has allowed division to set in. They feel we should all leave at the same time if we do leave at all," she said. ARG 21/12/93

The source, who wished to remain anonymous, said there were already "rumblings of selling out" from some members of the community.

During last week's meeting at the civic centre, a man said to be a member of the 71 families was forced to leave the hall when he delayed proceedings by asking a string of questions.

Although there seemed to be unanimity among the about 80 people in the hall that he must leave, the source said there was now widespread support in Tafelsig for the 71 families.

The source, also an illegal occupant, said contractors were continuing to level the site, once earmarked for a school, where all the illegal occupants would be housed.

D-Day looms for Tafelsig squatters

307

ARG 22/12/93

☐ Agreement to move tomorrow

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

TOMORROW will be a turning point in the saga of illegally occupied houses in Tafelsig.

In terms of an agreement, squatters must move tomorrow to a former school site where rudimentary services are being installed.

A key issue in a council debate on the Tafelsig issues yesterday was how temporary the squatter occupation of the school site would be.

Arthur Wienburg attacked the executive committee's handling of the affair.

Although the committee had said occupation of the site would be temporary, there was nothing in the agreement binding squatters to this.

He lashed out at exco's calling the situation "unique".

"What is unique about it?

"There is a shortage of housing in Cape Town and South Africa.

"This was a bold attempt by people who occupied property against law and morals, and threatened anyone who came near them to do anything about it.

"Yes, they threatened violence — even more reason to uphold the rule of law.

"You got interdicts — what for? How much did you spend on legal fees?"

Clive Keegan: I did use them.

Mr Wienburg: Were people evicted or not?

When Mr Keegan jibed: "Lead your troops in" to Mr Wienburg, he replied exco lacked commitment to its own policy.

Mr Wienburg said the African National Congress, which might have stepped in to end the crisis, had not done so because it was more interested in winning votes.

Housing chairman Neil Ross said Minister of Housing Louis Shill had praised the city council's handling of the situation.

He said housing in the past had caused three mini-civil wars in Cape Town.

"Housing is a magnet to people, especially when they have had to live in pondoks the whole of their lives," Mr Ross said.

He said a housing scheme announced by Mr Shill yesterday would mean 60 000 new houses for the Western Cape.

John Sonnenberg said it was a minor miracle there had been no loss of life or damage to property since the illegal occupations.

Rupert Hurly said exco should note the school site was next to the Wolfgat nature reserve.

Eulalie Stott attacked arrangements for servicing the sites.

"How can you possibly expect eight families to share one toilet? It's intolerable.

"And for 20 families to share a tap is irresponsible in the extreme," Mrs Stott said.

Mr Keegan warned that if people reneged on the deal the full force of the law would be used against them.

"We still hold eviction orders in reserve," he said.

Illegal move-in: Exco expects solution today

Municipal Reporter

A SOLUTION to the illegal occupation of houses in Tafelsig could be reached today.

City Council executive committee chairman Clive Keegan said talks would be finalised today, but he could not give details because he did not want to prejudice the council's position.

Arthur Wienburg slammed council handling of the illegal occupation as "appalling".

He labelled the illegal occupiers "terrorists" and said the council had set a dangerous precedent by not acting firmly.

"Why is it necessary for houses to stay unoccupied for so long?" Mr Wienburg asked.

Mr Keegan said those allocated houses often had trouble arranging vehicles to help them move in, or had children at school elsewhere, which made it difficult for them to move at certain times of the year.

Eulalie Stott said there were many black people who had lived in the Peninsula for 30 years who were still waiting for houses.

● Two applications for eviction orders against illegal occupants have cost the council R60 000. Mr Keegan said the cost of damage to houses illegally occupied was not known because it had not been possible to inspect the buildings.

Repairs would be funded from insurance and would not be claimed from illegal occupants, he said.

Tafelsig squatters decide to continue illegal occupation

ARG 24/12/93 (307)

□ Council's wooden houses are not good enough, they say

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

TAFELSIG squatters have refused to move to 3m by 3m wooden shelters to be provided for them on land adjacent to the houses they are illegally occupying.

Yesterday, after a lengthy delay, a prototype structure was erected but failed to meet with the squatter community's approval.

The squatters were meant to have vacated 71 houses — of the more than 250 illegally occupied two months ago — by yesterday in enable legal owners to move in by Christmas.

The city council was granted a final order two weeks ago in the Cape Town Supreme Court to evict most of the squatters.

On Wednesday, executive committee chairman Clive Keegan warned that should the squatters renege on the deal to move, the "full force of the law" would be used.

But at a meeting in Mitchell's Plain yesterday, representatives of the council agreed not to evict them forcibly — for another day at least.

Squatter representatives laid down three conditions for their move: each house should have a door, a window and a floor.

Asked to comment, an "astonished" Mr Keegan said failure to move the squatters would be "contrary to all council intentions".

Later, at a meeting of their own, the squatters said they would decide whether or not to move only after seeing the prototype structure.

At 2pm the structure was erected and the squatters gathered to inspect it.

After lengthy debate on its merits, Tafelsig Action Committee chairman Thandisizwe Smile said the occupants of the 71 houses had agreed to move as soon as possible — but were not prepared to move into such small houses.

He said they were prepared to move into 6m by 3m structures provided they had a floor — even if they had no doors or windows.

He accused the council of breaching the agreement, saying more gravel roads were needed and there had been no consultation on the structure of the houses.

Mr Smile said the ball was back in council's court and it was up to it to provide the houses.

"We will wait for the council's response and then report back to the community."

Contractors dismantled the wooden house "for security reasons", packed it on a truck and left the township.

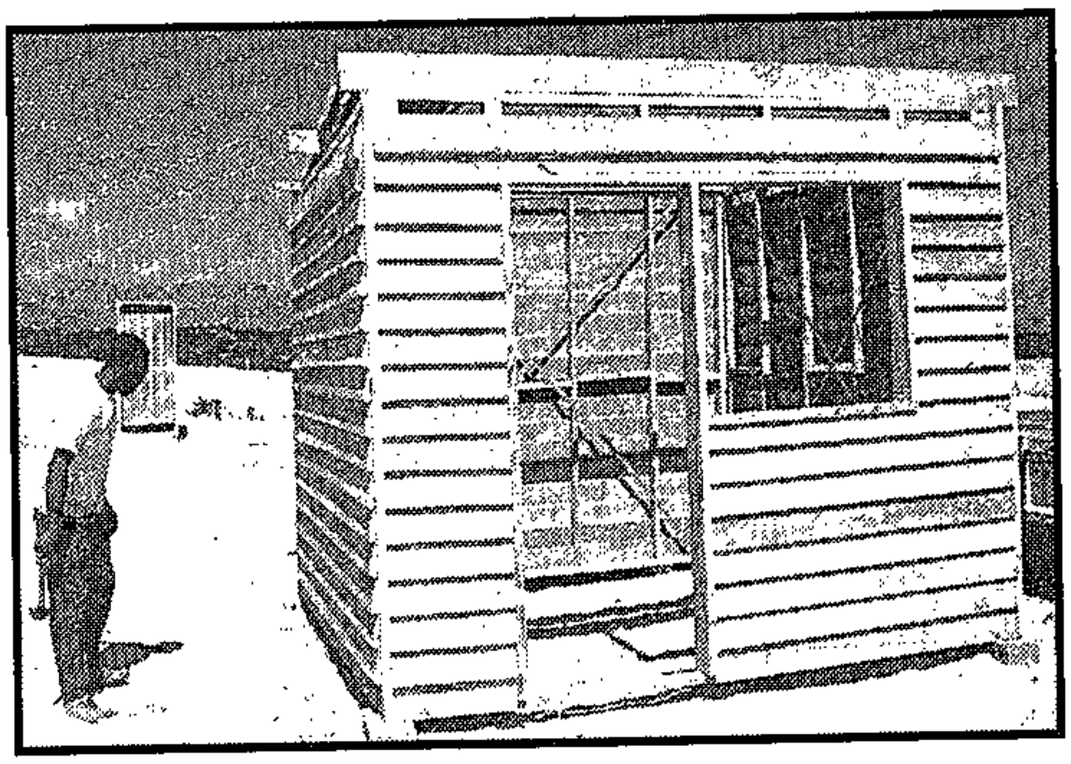
● A resident who was due to have moved into one of the occupied houses said he had hoped to move in by Christmas ... "everything's standing by".

"I have now developed a pretty negative attitude towards these people. We've been patient. I've been on the housing waiting list since 1984."



Picture: LEON MULLER, The Argus.

GREAT DEBATE: Squatters discuss whether to accept the houses being offered them while workers dismantle the prototype behind them. **Below:** The prototype house.



Last-minute talks today

CT 10/12/93

307

A LAST-MINUTE meeting between the Tafelsig Working Group — a collection of interested parties that includes the illegal occupants — and council executive committee chairman Mr Clive Keegan is to take place today.

This follows a Supreme Court final order yesterday in favour of the council, enabling it to evict most of the illegal occupants.

Senior deputy city administrator Mr Barney Botha said yesterday it was not expected that the evictions would take place sooner than next week because certain administrative matters had to be dealt with first.

Orders would have to be typed out individually for each household.

The Supreme Court had granted eviction orders only in those cases in which the council had been able to give the names of the illegal tenants.

It had been able to do this in 70% of the cases, although 280 houses were illegally occupied.

The council would also continue with efforts to have the remaining 30% of Tafelsig illegal occupiers legally evicted, Mr Botha said.

● A comprehensive housing board for South Africa would be constituted on Monday, the Minister of National Housing, Mr Louis Shill, announced yesterday.

Replying to the second reading debate on the Housing Matters Amendment Bill, he said that for the government, in the elections and afterwards, there would be no matter more important than housing.

Mr Shill said the housing problems in areas like Tafelsig in Mitchells Plain and Cato Manor in Durban had been exacerbated by political parties.

He was a "bit disturbed" that the government was not receiving the necessary co-operation from the Cape Town City Council.

A meeting would be held on December 20 to address housing problems in the Peninsula.

Mr Shill said there was "no way" the illegal occupation of other people's property could be allowed.

The "real problem" in areas like Cato Manor and Tafelsig was the inability of the communities to work together, not the lack of assistance from the state. — Municipal Reporter, Sapa

Court orders eviction

Supreme Court Reporter

SQUATTERS who have been occupying scores of houses in Tafelsig, Mitchells Plain, are to be evicted in terms of orders granted by the Supreme Court yesterday.

The applications, brought by the Cape Town City Council and Peninsula Construction (Pty) Ltd, have been postponed several times while negotiations between the squatters and the council have taken place.

In terms of the orders granted by Mr Justice J H Conradie, the council and Peninsula Construction may evict the squatters and the squatters may not occupy other houses in the area.

Rats pester squatters

Municipal Reporter

KUILS RIVER squatters want to move to a new site earmarked for them because they fear that other competing squatters may take the land.

Rats have also been biting their children.

Mr Justin Lottering of the Kuils River Residents' Association said the problem was that the municipality said the new sites, roughly at the intersection of the R300 and Stellenbosch arterial roads, were not ready yet. CT 13/12/93 (307)

The community, whose 300 shacks were destroyed by fire in July, had been due to move today. There are taps on the new sites, but the sewerage system is not yet in place.

Squatters said they had to move urgently since their children were being attacked by rats. A boy had his ear bitten and a little girl's finger was bitten.

Squatters to get mail service

307 CT 28/12/88

Staff Reporter

THE Post Office is planning to deliver its first "cluster boxes" to squatter communities on the Peninsula in the New Year.

Post Office regional general manager for the Cape Mr Leon Dippenaar said negotiations with civic leaders were at an advanced stage and the first mobile post offices could be brought into Khayelitsha, Crossroads and Kraaifontein squatter areas early next year.

"We are negotiating with civic leaders to ensure that the community is involved in the installation of the post offices. We want communities to take ownership of the post offices and see them as their facility," he said.

A mobile unit of 900 post boxes costs R29 000 and the Post Office will sell each post box for about R15. Mr Dippenaar denied any need for Post Office subsidisation of the service.

"This is a money-making venture for us, not just a social service. We hope to make money by increasing the volume of mail we deliver," he said.

Fears that the cluster block scheme might be introduced to areas that receive street delivery are unfounded, he said.

"These cluster box schemes will be introduced only to areas where there are no streets or house numbers, making street delivery impossible," he said.

'Workout then die' court told

9/12/93 307 C. Times

Accused: Squatter was fleeing

Staff Reporter

A KRAAIFONTEIN squatter who was allegedly abducted and shot told the Supreme Court yesterday that one of the accused had said he had found the place to give him a thorough workout before telling him he would be killed.

This was evidence in the trial of Mr Peet Rens of Joostenbergvlakte and Mr James Downey of Durbanville, who have both pleaded not guilty to kidnapping and attempting to murder Mr Douglas Nkwali, 39, of Wallacedene on January 7.

In evidence, Mr Nkwali denied that the two accused saw him running away carrying two parcels in Old Paarl Road, Kraaifontein.

The court heard the accused would say that when they saw Mr Nkwali acting suspiciously they had followed him and Mr Downey ordered him to halt. Mr Rens had got out of the car and grabbed him but by then he had thrown the parcels away.

Earlier Mr Nkwali told the court that the two accused drove him to a gravel road near Bloekomsbos squatter camp and Mr Rens said it was just the right spot to work him over.

Mr Downey asked him where "Mandela" was and Mr Rens opened the back door and said "get out kaffir" before telling him they were going to kill him.

Mr Nkwali said when the two men accosted him he went to a nearby house to look for help but the accused followed him in their car and Mr Rens said he would shoot him if he did not leave.

Cross-examined about the vicinity of the police station — which the defence said was only 200 metres away — Mr Nkwali said he was unfamiliar with the area. Asked why he was not able to point out the suspects at a police identity parade at the Bellville police station on May 17, Mr Nkwali said the lighting was inadequate and "all white men look alike".

The hearing continues.

Mr Chris Cilliers appears for the state, Mr David Charters for Mr Rens and Mr Marius Gerber for Mr Downey.

Squatters drop protests

Municipal Reporter

FRONT-END loaders went unhindered onto the 6ha Tafelsig "alternative site" for illegal occupiers yesterday after squatter women who have prevented the bulldozers from operating, apparently dropped their protests.

The earth-moving machinery was being used to clear the land to provide essential services. The women want the council to sign an agreement with them first.

An ultimatum requiring an undertaking that nobody would interfere with the progress of the loaders was faxed to occupier leader Mr Thandisizwe Smile.



CIVIC DIARY

By PETER DENNEHY

Tafelsig deal is a victory for peace

307

CT 20/12/93

THE agreement signed last week between Cape Town City Council and, among other parties, representatives of the illegal occupiers of council houses at Tafelsig, is a victory for peace.

It is a very welcome news at Christmas time that the way has been cleared for the peaceful resolution of a conflict of interests that seemed insoluble without violence.

If there were some who always thought a peaceful solution could be negotiated, I was not among them. It seemed to me that most of the occupants were stuck on their position of demanding alternative houses before they moved out. This position appeared to be untenable. I thought force would eventually have to be used.

Fortunately, I was wrong.

Much credit for this is due to Mr Norman Arendse of the Independent Mediating Service of South Africa, his colleages Mr Ian Newell and Mr Isgak Murison, Mr Neil Ross and all the council officials involved.

Particularly deserving of credit are the Tafelsig Residents' Association, representing legal occupants, which played such a patient, accommodating and positive role, and of course the illegal occupants themselves, most of whom have resigned themselves to living in shacks again.

The settlement is a good one. The council will not initially be providing houses. If it did, it would only encourage further illegal occupations. Yet it will meet its obligation to provide basic services — and charge for them.

Basic tasks

It may well be that the fees levied for municipal services (up to R25 a month, apart from electricity) are below what the market would require. This raises the question of just what role a municipality should be playing.

Among its most basic tasks is to provide services that sustain life and public health. Cape Town can afford to provide everyone with drinkable water, access to a water-borne sewerage system, refuse removal and some assistance for the very poor towards shelter — even if some must get these at below market rates.

A more difficult question is that of the Green Point fleamarket. Should the council let out land at below market rates to serve a public purpose?

This is an option that is rightly open to the council. Whether the public tender system is always appropriate with regard to the use of public land (for public goods such as coon carnivals and fleamarkets, for example) is a convoluted issue.

The tender system is useful to let the council know how much potential income that could accrue to ratepayers is being passed up.

Yet the council must be able to make decisions on such issues on some basis other than profit — especially where basic services, the public good or job-generation are at stake.

End of line for council, squatters

307
CT 3/12/93

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS who moved into Tafelsig houses are heading for a major showdown with the City Council, with the squatters refusing to leave — and the council ready to take them to court.

Yesterday squatters threatened that anyone trying to evict them from the 270 illegally occupied houses would leave Tafelsig "in coffins".

A council spokesman said the council and several other interested parties had met with the squatters "no less than 17 times in the past five weeks", and the squatters kept changing the dates on which they had agreed to move out of the houses.

Assistant city administrator, Mr Ben van Rensburg, said yesterday the council would "pull out all the stops" on the squatters by seeking eviction orders from the Supreme Court next Thursday, and would then decide whether and how to effect the evictions.

However, immediate servicing of part of a site earmarked for a school was being negotiated so that illegal occupiers of the houses could be settled there within the next two or three weeks.

Earlier yesterday representatives for the squatters failed to arrive for a meeting called by the council, the SA National Civics Organisation, the Mitchells Plain Management Committee and the Tafelsig Residents' Association.

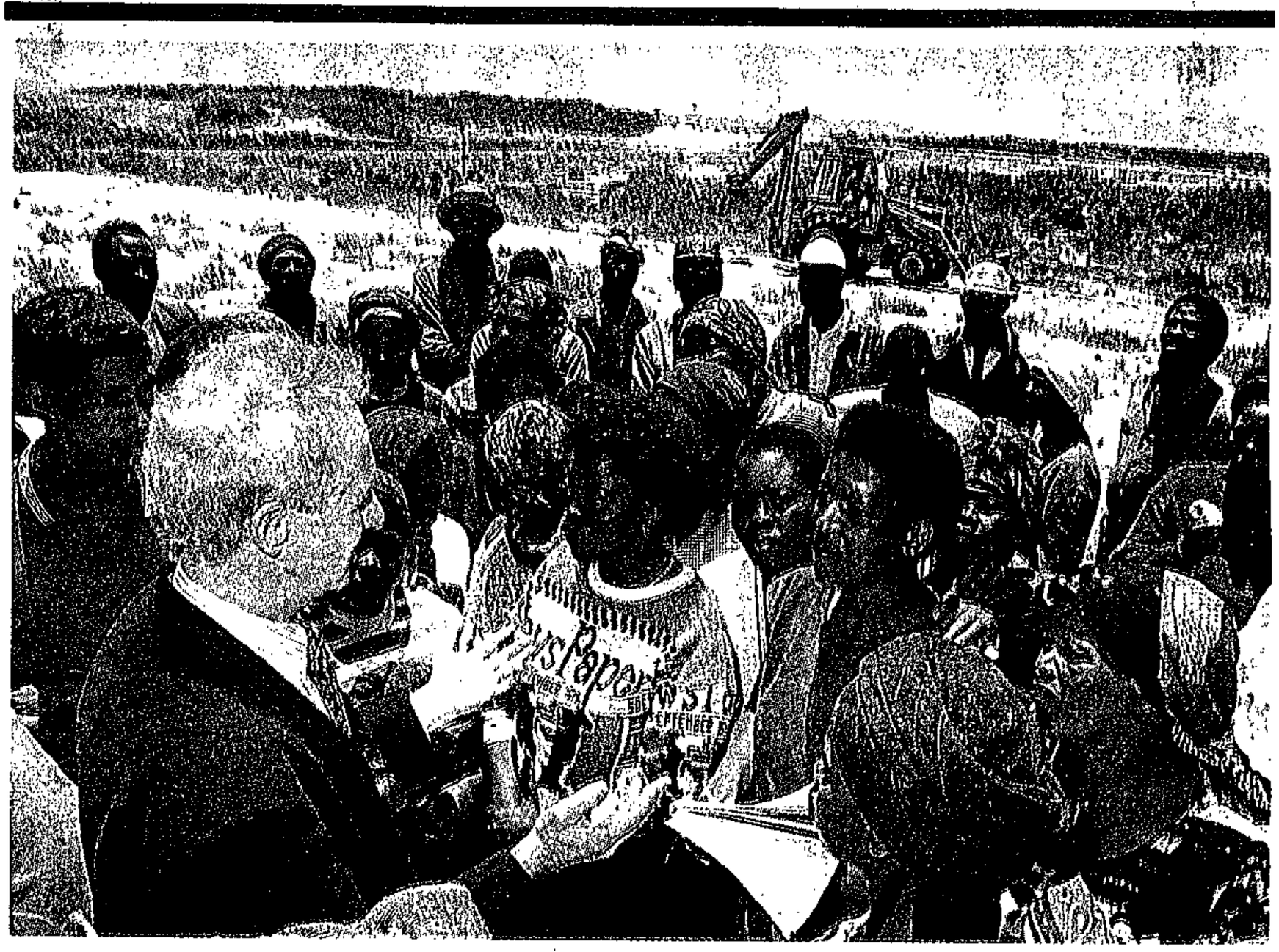
Eviction

At a re-scheduled meeting Mr van Rensburg informed the illegal occupiers on behalf of councillor Mr Norman Osburn of the council's executive committee that the council refused to enter into any agreements with them or their representatives, the Tafelsig Action Committee, and would be seeking eviction orders.

Tafelsig Action Committee spokesman Mr Thandisizwe Smile said the City Council would have to bear the consequences of its decision.

He said the squatters wished to continue negotiations with the council, but it had "run away".

Mr Smile said the squatters would take the matter to the Regional Peace Committee for assistance.



CONFRONTATION . . . Mr Ian Newell of the Peace Committee attempts to negotiate a solution with about 60 Tafelsig squatters who prevented City Council contractors from clearing land yesterday.

Picture: CLIVE SMITH

CT 11/12/93

Council calls for police presence at Tafelsig site

Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council has demanded a permanent police presence on the site earmarked for Tafelsig squatters after about 60 women illegally occupying houses tried to stop the council from clearing land yesterday.

The squatters have refused to vacate the houses intended for people who had spent years on the city housing list.

This follows protracted negotiations with the council and a Supreme Court order to evict them. The council has come under increasing pressure from the government to remove them.

Yesterday about 60 women squatters from Tafelsig in Mitchells Plain prevented City Council contractors from clearing land earmarked for them. Their action followed the breakdown of negotiations with the council last week.

Exco chairman Mr Clive Keegan yesterday said that anyone illegally occupying the site would be arrested for trespassing and work on clearing the land would resume immediately.

Evicted

The City Council would not evict any Tafelsig squatters until alternative sites were available, he said.

It was hoped that the first 71 sites would be availiable by December 22 when illegal occupants would be expected to move.

When more sites became available the others would also be required to move and if not they would be evicted in terms of the court order, he said.

Squatters would receive building materials worth R800, which would be in the form of a loan.

During the stand-off yesterday, which Mr Ian Newell of the Peace Committee attempted to resolve by negotiation, the women threatened to lie down in front of machinery to prevent work.

Squatter spokesman Ms Mandisa Dlantwa said the squatters would defy the Supreme Court order to evict them.

"We want to move from one house to another. The R800 the council is offering for building materials is only enough to build a shack and they will have to kill us before we move out."

Put an end to illegal Tafelsig squatting



CIVIC DIARY

By PETER DENNEHY

CT 6/12/93

THE Cape Town City Council is rapidly approaching the point at which it will earn more public approval than condemnation by taking strong action against the illegal occupiers of houses in Tafelsig.

An eviction order was obtained against just six of the occupiers on October 21, and an application has subsequently been lodged in respect of another 258.

Every time the second application came up in the Supreme Court, the council asked for a postponement.

Now after 17 meetings with the illegal occupants, the council is ready to ask for an eviction order for all of them.

It is still hoping that the occupiers will move out peacefully, of their own accord. Their representatives have said on more than one occasion that they realise they will have to go, even if they do not get alternative houses.

Now it seems they are stalling for more time under their ill-gotten roofs. They apparently did not pitch up for a scheduled meeting with the council this week, and they have declared their intention to complain to the Peace Committee about the council's alleged failure to negotiate in good faith.

Already the council has had to admit to its most persistent questioner, Mr Arthur Wienburg, that its deal of free land near Tafelsig contravenes its own policy.

Asked what consequences this departure from policy might have, the council duly replied: "Others may do the same."

Situations similar to the Tafelsig one have occurred in Natal, with an even larger-scale occupation in Cato Manor. Another occupation scenario has played itself out in the Dukuduku forest. There the IFP, oddly enough, championed the cause of the "illegals", and the matter went to the magistrate's court.

At some point lawyers for the squatters withdrew, the ruling went against the squatters and heavily armed police were called in. A consumer boycott was called, but the squatters are now being removed without incident.

Here in the Western Cape, it is dubious whether there would even be a successful consumer boycott. All political parties, including the ANC which many of the occupiers seem to support, have condemned the occupations.

With an election coming up, the political costs to the Democratic Party (which has a great deal of influence over the city council) of delaying for too long, or doing nothing, are simply rising too high.

My guess is that soon after Christmas, a well-armed force is going to go in to Tafelsig to carry out the first evictions. I suspect that the average citizen will not have a problem with that.

Yet it would be nice if the announcement of a formula for a non-racial housing waiting list could precede the first evictions.

Squatters to move by Xmas

CT 18/12/88 (307)

Houses free for owners next week

By PETER DENNEHY

THE council and the illegal occupiers of 276 Tafelsig houses yesterday signed an agreement that should give the first 71 rightful owners access to their homes by Christmas.

In terms of the agreement, all the illegal occupiers of council houses there will move of their own free will on to an adjoining piece of council land (formerly a school site) which at first will have only rudimentary services.

The first 71 council houses — which have been allocated to people on the waiting list, and for which deeds of sale have been signed — must be vacated by 5pm on Thursday, December 23.

Mr Hans Smit, the director of project management services, said yesterday that the council was confident it would have some services in place by late next week.

Initially, there would be a toilet available for every eight plots, and a tap for every 20. Sewage would be water-borne and the 200m² plots would be big enough to allow upgrading to more acceptable standards without the people having to move.

The remaining 205 houses will have to be vacated within 14 days of the council's giving written notice to the illegal occupants that serviced plots are available at the "school site". No date has been given for this.

Also in terms of the agreement, the occupants will pay a monthly amount of not more than R25 for municipal services. Electricity has to be paid for separately.

The council will provide a loan of R720 per household for building materials.

One sign of possible trouble in future was that Mr Ncane Finiza, who said afterwards that he represented the 71, asked so many questions about the agreement in the Civic Centre yesterday that members of the crowd of about 60 asked him to sit down.

He later left and stood outside. "I suppose there might be some defiance from some of the 71," he said. "Earlier, we were all going to move out together, but today we are divided."

Mr Julius Thwesi, representative of the illegal occupants, was pleased with the agreement.

Tafelsig illegals renege on deal

Staff Reporter

ILLEGAL occupants of 71 City Council-owned houses in Tafelsig, Mitchells Plain, reneged on an undertaking to be out by 5pm yesterday because structures they claim the council had promised to build for them had not been erected.

However, executive committee chairman Mr Clive Keegan said yesterday the building of structures was not part of the deal. He said the council had discharged its obligations and expected the occupants to honour the agreement.

In terms of the deal signed by the council and the Tafelsig Action Committee (TAC), the occupants of the 72 houses would move to a nearby serviced site where they would be allowed to build structures.

TAC secretary Miss Zoliswa Sam said the illegal occupants have agreed to move to the site but there was confusion about the size of the structures which measured 3m by 3m. By late yesterday they were still waiting for the structures to be erected, she said.

"People are willing to move but to proper structures in terms of the agreement."

Referring to claims by Miss Sam that structures were to have been erected, Mr Keegan said the council had offered to pay R720 per occupant to buy material for a structure.

Told that by late yesterday afternoon that the illegal occupants were still in their houses, Mr Keegan said he was not prepared to comment.

CT 29/12/93

Tafelsig illegal occupants 'not scared to die'

By PETER DENNEHY

FORCE would be used against anyone who tried to make them leave, the illegal occupiers of about 280 council houses in Tafelsig's Area L said yesterday.

When asked whether belongings removed from the homes would be returned to the houses even if armed guards stood in their way, chief negotiator for the occupiers Mr Thandisiswe Smile said firearms "are not a threat any more". He added that they had "been shot at by police and we are not scared to die".

City council executive committee chairman Mr Clive Keegan said yesterday there would be no further comment to the media on the issue, "until the matter has finally been brought to a head".

Commenting on Mr Keegan's statement last week that the full force of the law would be brought to bear on the occupiers in the event of a written agreement to move being breached, councillor Mr Arthur Wienburg said yesterday: "I want to know for how long Mr Keegan and his committee are going to talk tough and act weak."

Mr Smile said the group of 71 had not moved on December 23, as had been required in the agreement, because the council had breached "a verbal agreement that was related to the written one".

The council had indicated verbally that the occupiers would have wooden shacks to go to, but on the 23rd it only had 40 shacks ready to be erected instead of 71 shacks, he said.

Mr Smile said he doubted the Mitchells Plain police could be used to evict the occupiers, because "as I see it, they are people's police. Maybe they can use conservatives from other areas".

SQUATTERS

FM 10/12/93

Courting eviction

Cape Town City Council was preparing this week to evict squatters from 260 council-owned houses at Tafelsig, Mitchells Plain, but the illegal occupiers vowed to stay put.

The council's decision to proceed with a court application for eviction orders follows the collapse of negotiations to end the crisis, which began six weeks ago when people from neighbouring Khayelitsha took over the Tafelsig properties (~~258~~) (307)

All the houses, some of which have not been completed, have already been allocated to families on the council's housing waiting list. In some cases, deposits have been paid by prospective purchasers.

In terms of current policy, the town council provides some housing — rented and for sale — to coloured people. It is not responsible for black housing.

In spite of the Tafelsig crisis, the council has decided to go ahead with a contract for another 500 houses and 384 self-help scheme houses in the area but is negotiating with the police for additional protection.

FM 10/12/93

Houses in the new schemes will be allocated on a nonracial basis in line with government policy that comes into force at the beginning of next year (~~258~~) (307)

But the council believes it is necessary to be "sensitive" to the position of coloured people already living in the area. It has also decided not to allocate any of the new houses to people currently occupying properties illegally in Tafelsig unless their names already appear on the waiting list.

Meanwhile, council officials are examining old records relating to the period before the black areas in Cape Town were removed from the council's jurisdiction, to see if people whose names were then on the waiting list for housing can still be assisted. ■

Exco to seek eviction of 307 'squatters' ARG 2/12/93

Municipal Reporter

THE City Council has pulled out of a proposed agreement on ending the illegal occupation of houses in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain, and will apply next week for a Supreme Court order to evict illegal occupants.

Illegal and legal residents of Tafelsig were furious over the City Council decision announced today.

Housing chairman Norman Osburn told the Tafelsig forum today that the council needed to protect its legal rights.

The council would immediately start to provide services at an alternative site to a spending limit of R400 000.

Tafelsig forum chairman Norman Arendse said the Exco decision put the forum's future in jeopardy.

Tafelsig Action Committee spokesman Thandisizwe Smile said the city council would have to bear the consquences of its decision.

The SA National Civics Organisation representative on the regional peace committee, Johnson Npukumpa, said the issue should be referred to the regional peace committee.

Tafelsig: Council's door 'still open'

ARG 3/12/93

Municipal Reporter

THE city council's door remains open to people unhappy about its withdrawal from a draft deal on ending illegal occupation of Tafelsig houses, says assistant city administrator Ben van Rensburg.

The executive committee announced yesterday it was going ahead with applications to the Supreme Court for orders to evict illegal occupants.

Provision of services to serviced sites offered to illegal occupants would start immediately, to a spending limit of R400 000.

Representatives of legal and illegal occupants told a Press conference yesterday they were angry and disappointed at the council decision.

Tafelsig Forum chairman Norman Arendse said council housing chairman Norman Osburn had told the forum the council wanted to protect its legal rights.

Mr Arendse said it was unclear whether the council would actually evict people if it had obtained the court orders.

"If they do not intend to do so, then I do not understand why they do not sign the agreement."

In terms of the agreement, illegal occupants would move to serviced sites once these were ready. Legal occupants would agree to wait, and the city council would drop any legal action.

Mr Arendse said council withdrawal from the agreement made nonsense of forum meetings in past weeks.

"I do not think the council has thought through the consequences of its political decision.

"As much as I understand the council has been frustrated from time to time, it is a sensitive matter and the council recognised that when it agreed to be a party to this forum."

The council was acting unilaterally when the agreement would have allowed it to proceed with the consent of legal and illegal occupants.

"The council has lost a great opportunity to practice what it preaches and consult communities about what it does."

A spokesman for illegal occupants, Tafelsig Action Committee member Thandisize Smile, said the matter should be put to the regional peace committee.

If the council resorted to "Casspirs and teargas" the action committee would have no choice but to respond.

"The city council will have to bear the consequences of its action if it means people living there leave in coffins and there are no houses left," Mr Smile said.

A SA National Civic Organisation representative on the peace committee, Johnson Npukumpa, said the peace committee should decide the issue.

Tafelsig Ratepayers' Association spokesman Riedewaan Isaacs said the city council had "no moral conscience about the coloured community".

He said the council had not been elected or nominated by "coloureds" and should be replaced by an interim council.

"We are very disappointed with the council stepping out of the agreement.

"We can envisage the worst sort of chaotic situation in the coming Christmas season.

"It is unimaginable what will happen if evictions are carried out," Mr Isaacs said.

Mr Van Rensburg said the council was under pressure from the 71 people who had been allocated the houses legally.

"I am prepared to go back to the council to ask them to agree to the agreement provided that you vacate at least those 71 houses," he told illegal occupants.

He said exco had not indicated whether or when it would act on any eviction order.

The committe had told him to make it clear the door was open for future talks.

Showdown with squatters looms

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Weekend Argus Reporter

A VIOLENT showdown is looming between the illegal occupants of Tafelsig starter houses and the Cape Town City Council, after the breakdown of protracted negotiations this week.

The Tafelsig Action Committee, representing the illegal occupants, has threatened "to destroy all the houses" unless "peaceful" negotiations are resumed.

But the City Council plans to go ahead with applications to the Supreme Court for eviction orders.

Acting chairman of the housing committee Norman Osburn said yesterday: "We are determined the illegal occupation must come to an end ... either through co-operation or coercion."

About 260 houses, many of them incomplete, have been illegally occupied for the past six weeks. Tafelsig is a suburb of Mitchell's Plain bordering on Khayelitsha.

Six weeks into the occupation and negotiation a draft agreement was compiled by Tafelsig Forum chairman Norman Arendse and presented to council on Thursday.

In terms of the agreement, illegal occupants would move to serviced plots on the adjacent "school site" once these were ready.

Legal occupants, waiting to occupy houses for which many have paid deposits, would agree to wait and the city council would withdraw all legal action.

But the council refused to sign the agreement and the Executive Committee announced it would proceed with obtaining eviction orders next week.

Tafelsig Action Committee chairman Thandisizwe Smile said the illegal occupants' position was clear.

"We are prepared to fight the matter in court on behalf of our people but we are not leaving the houses.

"If the council cannot solve the problem round the table, we will be forced to vandalise the houses.

"We will destroy all the houses, we have no alternative.

"Or they can shoot us if they like. The only response left to the city council is to order the police to come in with teargas and guns.

"If the police use guns, people will die. But we are prepared to die.

"We endorse the draft document and are honestly prepared to move out once suitable alternative accommodation has been prepared," Mr Smile said.

Mr Osburn said the council objected to several clauses in the draft document including that which provided for the council to withdraw all applications for ejection.

In any case, a member of the forum (Mr Arendse) prepared the draft document and consensus was never achieved.

"It became apparent the document was not acceptable to all parties and there would therefore be further delays.

"If we withdrew the ejection orders and negotiations broke down again we would be forced to incur the expense of reinstituting them.

"There were numerous other points we found problematic.

"Because of the urgency of the matter Exco felt we had to proceed as it was felt important we obtain a result in this matter as soon as possible," Mr Osburn said.

He said it had been decided to proceed immediately with preparing the school sites despite the breakdown in negotiations.

"The council will have to take action. We cannot possibly allow them to remain ... they either leave voluntarily or we use coercion.

"The council is determined the illegal occupations must come to an end, either through co-operation or through firm action.

"We have had about six weeks of talk and about 20 protracted meetings, yet there has been no sign of resolving the issue," Mr Osburn said.

Tafelsig protesters force contractor off site for new shacks

☐ Women demand 'firm undertaking' by council

307

ARG 14/12/93

EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

A CONTRACTOR levelling land to house defiant people occupying houses illegally in Tafelsig withdrew when toyi-toying occupiers again protested against the city council's failure to give firm undertakings about their future.

A city engineer's department official said yesterday the council was suspending the work until the politicians "sort out the mess."

Yesterday's action followed a stand-off between the mostly women protesters and police in several vans after similar incident on Friday.

Spokeswoman Zodwa Lungcuzo said the police, including members of the Internal Stability Unit, gave them five minutes to leave the site, where they were sitting to prevent the contractor from working.

They refused, she said.

"This is not a police matter and the city council should stop causing conflict between the police and us," she said.

There were no incidents, but police reinforcements arrived about noon and several uniformed policemen confronted the women who were chanting slogans and toyi-toying at the centre of the field.

The officer in charge, Colonel Michael Esterhuizen, said police were there to protect machinery.

"Police are not against you. It's yours and the council's problem," he said.

Colonel Esterhuizen said the city council laid charges of tresspassing against the women on Friday.

"When my men came here there was no one."

In the presence of the policemen yesterday, a council official who declined to disclose his identity spoke to the women.

He said: "I'm from the engineering department and we are not politicians. Our duty was to service the site and our understanding was that politicians and your representatives had resolved this issue," he said.

The official said he was removing the graders until politicians had sorted out the mess.

"It costs money for these vehicles to be standing here doing nothing."

The protesters say they are not opposed to leaving the Tafelsig houses and moving to the new site, but want the city council, which they accuse of "unfaithfulness" to sign a document comitting itself to its "promises."

They want the council to develop the area as a township and are opposed to settling there temporarily.

"They must build us houses, not shacks ... I'm from a shack in Khayelitsha and I can't figure myself moving into another shack," said Ms Lungcuzo.

The group said they wanted to be "part and parcel" of the developments and the city council should not act unilaterally.

Ms Lungcuzo said that the council had agreed to "a table" (to re-open negotiations) and a meeting would be held today.

Tafelsig squatter saga takes on new twist

☐ Women in stand-off

Staff Reporters

A TENSE stand-off has developed in Tafelsig with about 70 squatter women preventing city council contractors from levelling land earmarked for them.

The squatters, who illegally occupied houses in Tafelsig intended for people who had spent years on the city housing list, were to be moved to the serviced site by Christmas.

A large police contingent stood by today while a member of the Peace Committee attempted to negotiate a solution.

Three front-end loaders stood idle. The women said they would not allow work to resume until the council agreed to restart stalled negotiations. If the contractors started the machinery they would lie down in front of it, they said.

Ian Newell of the Peace Committee told the women that Exco chairman Clive Keegan had agreed to a meeting on Monday. But the women said work could not continue until a written agreement, including terms for their removal and rehousing had been signed and sealed.

Squatter spokeswoman Phoebe Ncwana said that until the city council returned to the negotiating table they would prevent the "so-called school site" from being developed.

"We want to stop them. They must consult us. We don't know what's going on. We want to negotiate not fight."

Police called to the scene by an engineer — who refused to identify himself — were trying to reach city council housing committee chairman Neil Ross.

Ms Ncwana said that the squatters had been in the houses for more than two months and there had been no friction between them and the "so-called legal residents".

She accused the council of wanting to divide the community and create friction.

The chairman of the area's ratepayers' association, Andries Mondsinger, agreed the council was trying to cause friction in the community.

"The occupants were ready to move out and then the council refused to sign the document.

"We want the council at the negotiating table.

"We don't want a black Christmas here in Tafelsig. We want the council back at the table."

The squatters drew up a petition which they handed to police to pass on to the council.

"Stop upgrading please because so-called squatters were not consulted," the petition said.

Ms Ncwana said women had taken up the issue because "we feel the pain".

"It is our children who are suffering, that's why the women must stand up. The council is playing with us," she said.

● A legal resident meanwhile said if the council developed a squatter camp on their doorstep, they would immediately stop paying rent.

● Earlier today Mr Keegan said the city council would not evict any Tafelsig squatters until alternative sites were available.

Mr Keegan said it was hoped that the first 71 sites would be available by December 22 when illegal occupants would be expected to move.

As more sites became available, the others would also move.

Squatters would also receive building materials worth R800, he said.

Only those whose names had been identified in the final court order granted in the Supreme Court yesterday, which allowed the council to evict the Tafelsig squatters, could be helped.

Squatters in about 30 percent of the households remain unidentified, but these would be dealt with in a separate court application on January 5.

Mr Keegan said that if the squatters refused to move after the sites had become available, the council could implement the court order.

Defiant new turn in Tafelsig's housing row

307

ARG 11/12/93

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Weekend Argus Reporter

THREE front-end loaders were turned back by a group of women when they arrived to level the site earmarked for the illegal occupants of Tafelsig homes.

The occupants of 76 houses — 260 were seized about two months ago — are to be moved to the serviced sites by December 21, or at least that is what the city council plans to do.

But, the council has refused to sign a draft agreement compiled by Tafelsig Forum chairman Norman Arendse in terms of which the illegal occupants agreed to move, under certain conditions.

The council declared it was no longer interested in negotiating and that the occupants would have to move, either co-operatively or by coercion.

The Tafelsig Action Committee — representing the illegal occupants — warned they would tear down the houses unless negotiations were resumed.

But, the council went ahead and got eviction orders in the Supreme Court this week, following up by moving contractors in yesterday to level the site earmarked to house the illegal occupants.

■ The Cape Town City Council's decision to suspend negotiations has angered both legal and illegal residents in the Tafelsig housing dispute, with both sides becoming more defiant while urging a resumption of the talks.

However, things did not run as smoothly as the council envisaged.

Tafelsig Action Committee spokeswoman Phoebe Ncwana said: "We are not moving anywhere until the city council returns to the negotiating table."

About 70 singing, chanting women prevented the bulldozers from doing their work, the women threatening to lie down in front of the bulldozers if they started up.

The women were supported in their action by Tafelsig Site L Residents' Association chairman — and legal resident — Andries Mondsinger, who also called for the resumption of peaceful negotiations.

Ms Ncwana said they would continue to prevent the levelling of the so-called school site until they had obtained a document signed by council outlining the terms for their removal.

She said the occupants of 76 houses could not be arbitrarily moved if other illegal occupants were not moved as well.

"How can they upgrade the field without our consent? Who are they planning to move? We will stop them. They did not consult us and we don't know what's going on."

She accused the council of attempting to drive a wedge between legal and illegal residents and divide the illegal residents as well.

"We were prepared to move and then the council refused to sign the agreement," she said.

Mr Mondsinger also claimed the council was causing friction in the community.

"We don't want a black Christmas here in Tafelsig. We want the council back at the negotiating table.

"In any case, this site was earmarked for our school," he said.

■ Meanwhile, a legal resident said that if the council went ahead and developed a "squatter camp" on their doorstep they would stop paying rent immediately.

ARG 11/12/93 (307)



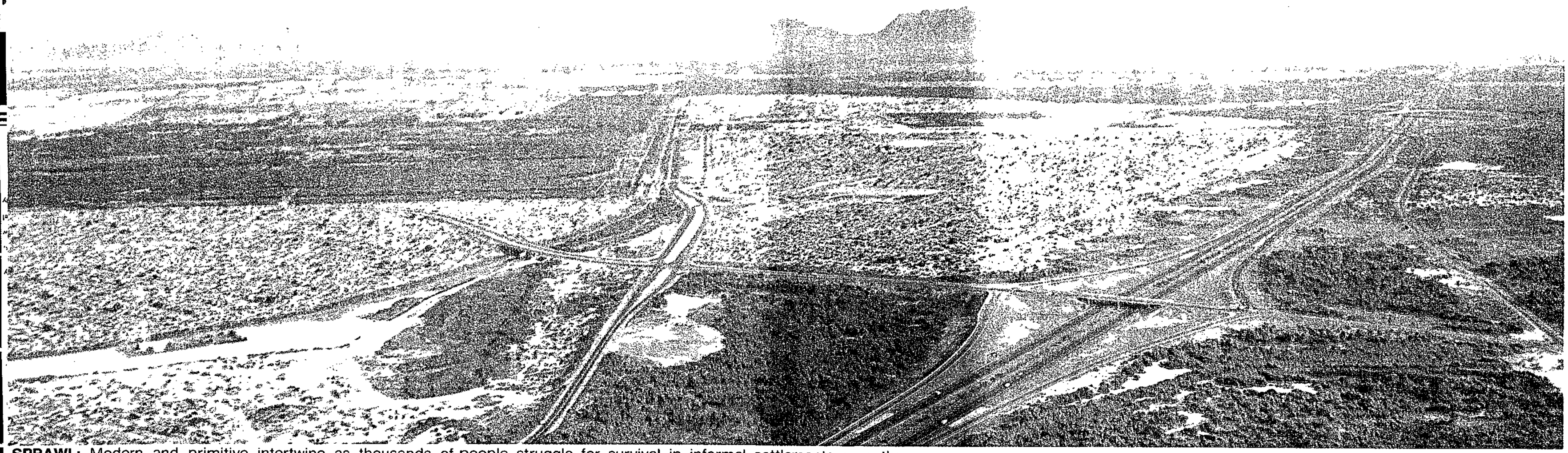
□ **THE SCHOOL SITE:** The group of about 70 women — illegal residents of Tafelsig starter homes — who prevented site-levelling on the ground earmarked for them.



Pictures: ROGER FRIEDMAN, Weekend Argus.

□ **FRIENDLY DEBATE:** Chairman of the Tafelsig Site L Residents Association Andries Mondsinger makes a point to Sergeant Casaleggio of the Internal Stabiltiy Unit.

. . . a question of survival



SPRAWL: Modern and primitive intertwine as thousands of people struggle for survival in informal settlements near the major highways of a growing city. Estimates of how many squatters have come — and are coming — to Cape Town vary. Meanwhile, controversy rages about the violence in areas such as Crossroads — and stone-throwing hooliganism that tends to harden attitudes to the plight of people without jobs and proper shelter.

Dim hopes of finding a job . . .

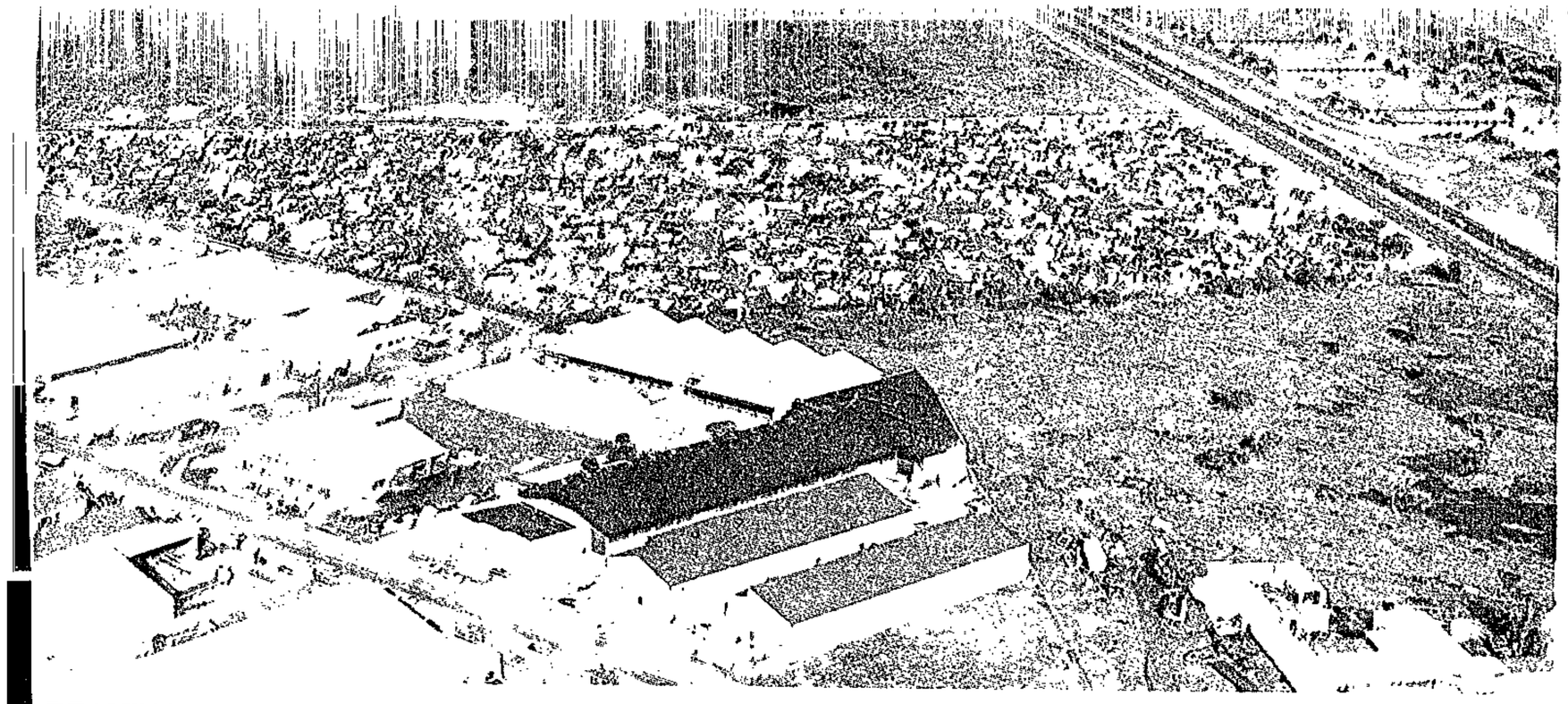


CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

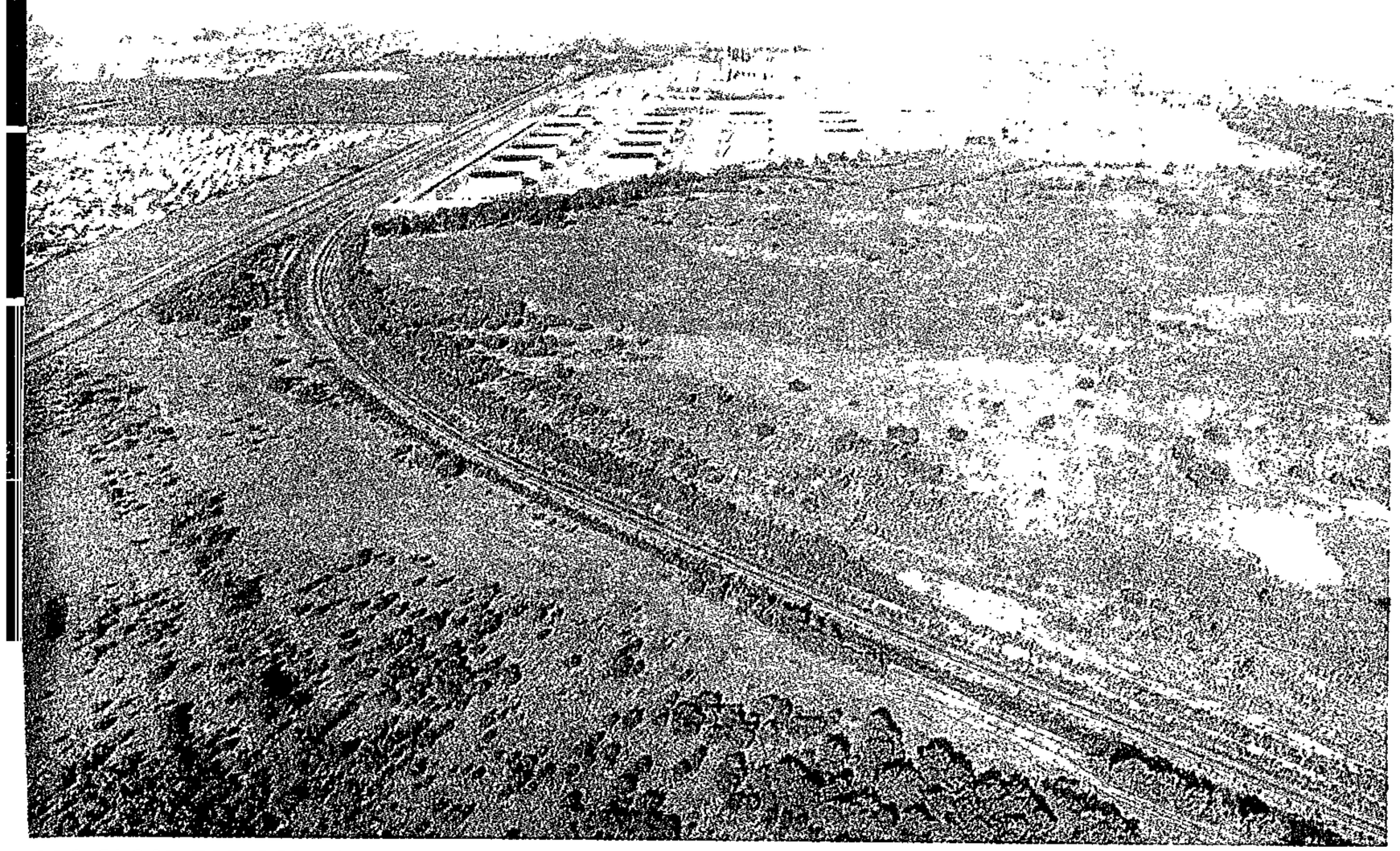
MOST informal settlers barely earn a living, says Chamber of Commerce human resources spokesman Mr Charl Adams.

Statistics said 43 percent of the economically active population were unemployed, but this was not a fair picture be-





BEAMING OUT: Marconi Beam, home to 5 500, and a source of worry to factories and warehouse owners who claim the squatter presence is linked to a high burglary rate in the area. Next to Koeberg Road (far right) and Montague Gardens, the camp will make way for industrial development if squatters are moved to Du Noon.



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT? The southern part of the Du Noon site is in the foreground, bordered by the N7 on the left and a railway line where a station is planned. The proximity of the proposed "less formal settle- ... could cause ... to plunge in Richwood (far left) and Table View (far right).

... informal sector.

"This does not mean that everything is fine, because people are often merely survivalist entrepreneurs — selling a few chickens at a small mark-up from a shack, for instance."

Hopes were dim in an economy where the job market had fallen apart and even graduates were battling to find work.

But the black community was characterised by a quest for self-employment.

The shape of cities formed by apartheid has disadvantaged people in townships and informal settlers.

Cape Town was widely dispersed, increasing reliance on public transport.

It remained to be seen whether business districts would develop independently of the city central business district, or whether newcomers would follow traditional lines toward the city.

Upgrading of townships, including services, electrification and telecommunications links, would be necessary for business development.

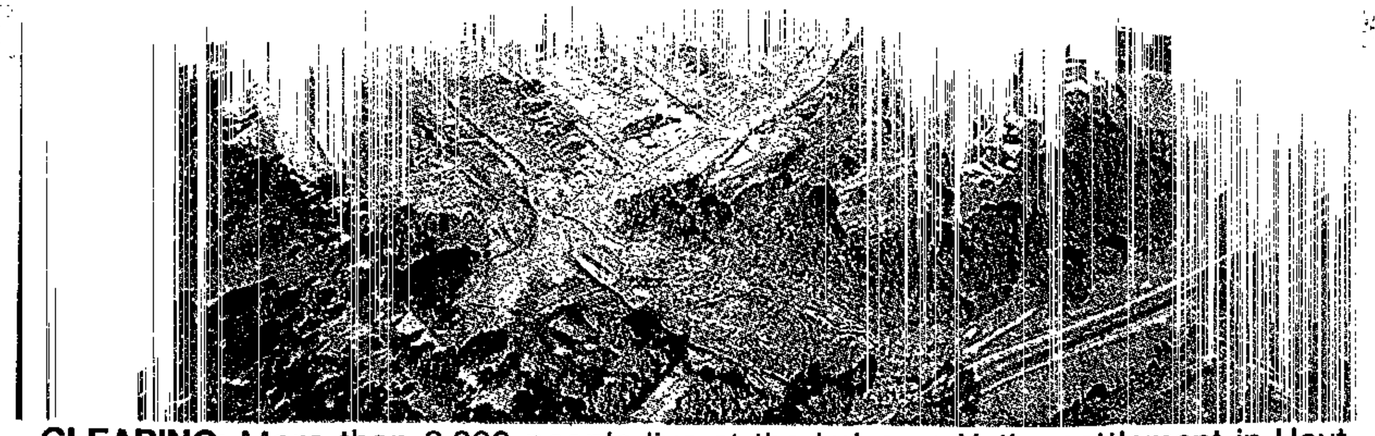
Community banking, extending finance to people using criteria more "relaxed" than those of establishment banks, was another tool useful to development.

Mr Adams said the informal settlement happened in cities worldwide.

The proposal to take 10 percent from councils to use for upgrading areas which included informal settlements could become a reality.

There was a need to depoliticise the problem.

Also needed was a management policy for State land, likely to be a prime target for informal settlement.



CLEARING: More than 2 000 people live at the Imizamo Yethu settlement in Hout Bay, near houses much more lavish than their own. In the background on the right is Hangberg, itself home to a squatter settlement.

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The Argus

LIBERTY AND PRESS FREEDOM

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Farmers should accept

THE PAC's offer to hold a summit with farmers to discuss a political solution to hostilities between them and the organisation's armed wing, Apla, should be considered seriously by the agricultural unions.

Dozens of farmers around the country have been murdered. The PAC has accepted responsibility for attacks on farmers by Apla members, saying they are a legitimate target. Talks between the two sides might end these attacks.

Sensibly, OFS Agricultural Union president Dr Piet Gous said yesterday that, if discussions could prevent the death of just one farmer, this had to be regarded as a positive step. However, he added that farmers were not prepared to negotiate across graves and the PAC would have to prove its commitment to peace before talks were possible. Such a pre-condition could destroy the chance of a meeting. In any case, the PAC is already under pressure from the government and other participants at the multi-party negotiations to commit itself to peace.

A similar proviso has held up talks for two years between Mr Nelson Mandela and Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi. Now, at last, the leaders are to have a summit and one wonders how many lives might have been saved if they had met earlier. The same should not happen between the farmers and the PAC.

Squatters: A challenge

IF anyone had doubts about the size of the squatter problem in the Western Cape then the facts, the figures and the pictures on these pages will dispel them. It is not a problem that will just go away. The squatters are here — and here to stay. Their numbers will increase. The community at large has to face this reality and act accordingly.

Enormous resources will be needed to ensure orderly urbanisation. It will cost a lot of money — R400 million a year is quoted as being necessary to provide serviced sites for those without acceptable housing — and more land will be needed.

And it will take compassion. Violence, crime and acts of vandalism like stone-throwing emanating from squatter areas have hardened some hearts to the plight of thousands of families battling to survive in appalling conditions.

The answer lies in upgrading these areas, in better

SQUATTERS

Living on the edge

The facts and figures

Municipal Reporter

BERMUDA, Sun City, Sweet Home ... sometimes just a dump site.

These are some of the names of the places that are home to the more than 900 000 people who have settled in the Western Cape since 1980.

They, and camps yet to find a name, will be home to the 600 000 people expected in the next 10 years.

Crossroads, one of the oldest areas with an estimated 18 000 informal settlers, is being torn apart by violence which could prompt many to seek refuge elsewhere.

Figures provided by the Provincial Administration and the city council show the spread of informal settlement, some established with streets and committees in charge, others mere clutches of people clinging to existence beneath a bridge or some rudimentary shelter.

Hout Bay's Imizamo Yethu has about 2 450 people, living in about 500 structures.

Site 5 in Noordhoek has 2 600 people, in 650 structures.

The south-eastern part of the metropole has the greatest concentrations, and seen from the air boasts many of the most ordered informal settlements in the region.

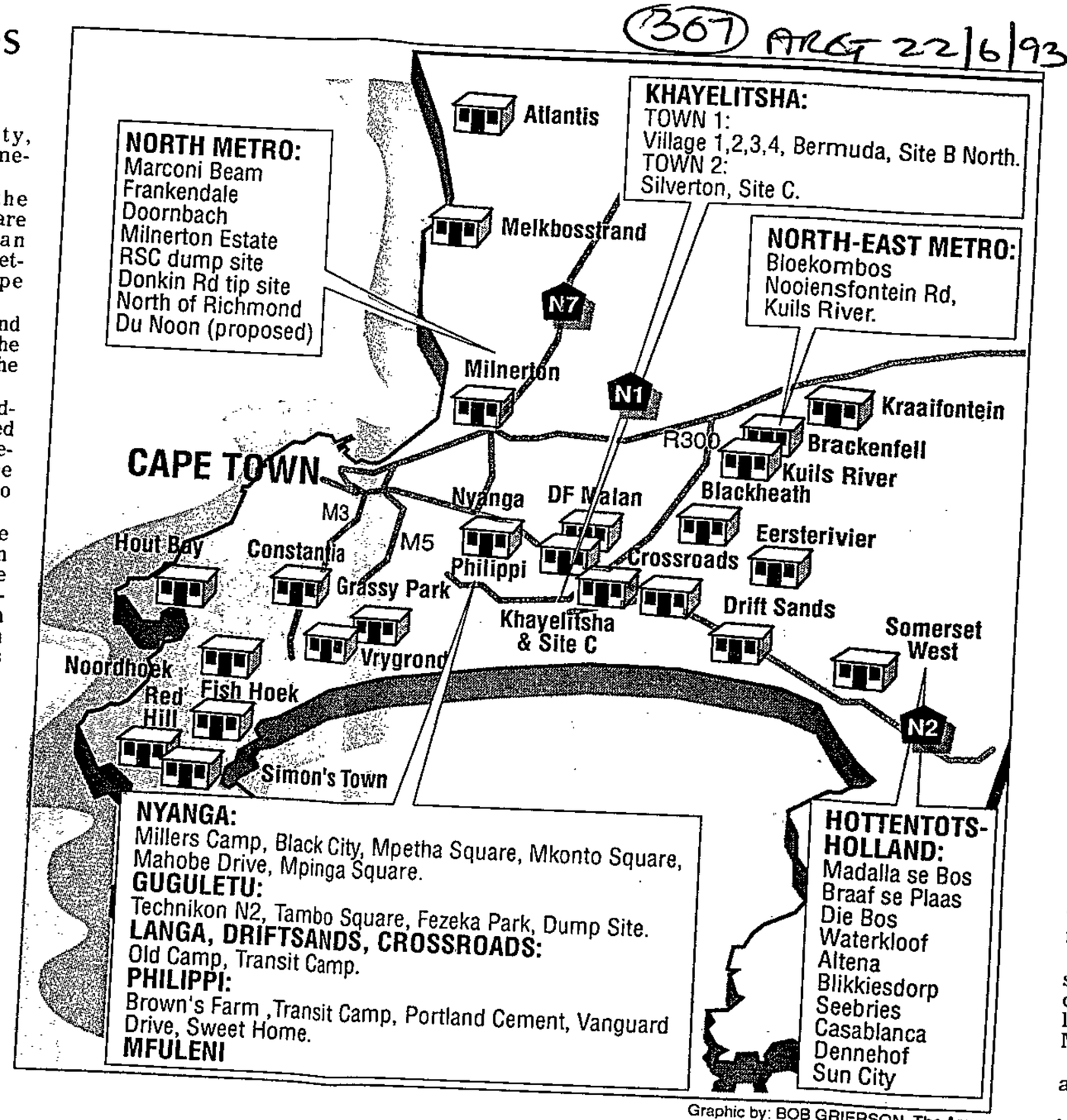
In Nyanga, about 28 000 people live in settlements including Millers Camp, Black City, Mpetha Square, Mhkonto Square, Mahobe Square and Mpinga Square.

In Guguletu, 17 000 people have settled at the Technikon N2 site, and at Tambo Square, Fezeka Park and a dump site.

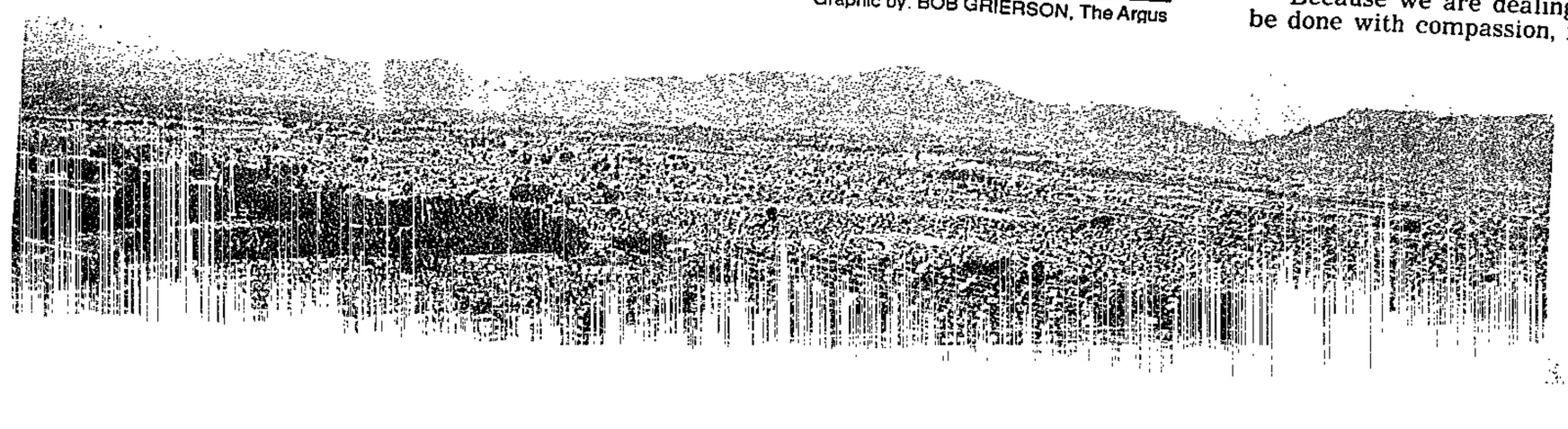
There are 7 775 squatters in Langa, living in 1 391 structures.

In Driftsands, a focus of concern among environmentalists, 700 people live in 166 structures.

In Philippi, an area where planners hope to create job



Graphic by: BOB GRIERSON, The Argus



(307) ARG 22/6/93

CLIVE SAWYER Municipal Reporter

ABOUT R400 million a year would have to spent to provide serviced sites for people who have come to Cape Town in the past decade without finding acceptable housing.

This was estimated by Provincial Administration deputy director-general Mr Carel du Preez.

Echoing analyst Clem Sunter's warning of a "ring of fire" around cities if urbanisation was not properly managed, he said people in settled communities did not seem to be accepting "certain realities".

The estimate of the cost of catching up with a backlog of people without services — now said to be about 90 000 — was based on the cost of the Serviced Land Project, which is to provide 36 000 serviced sites over five years at a cost of R500 million.

Negative attitudes to informal settlers could worsen problems by sparking a reaction.

Outlining the pillars of CPA urbanisation policy, he said there had to be acceptance of the inevitability of urbanisation as a worldwide phenomenon, worsened by periods of low economic growth and drought.

"There has to be realisation of the forces working in this regard — it is about people's survival," he said.

Measures to keep people away from cities and towns no longer existed.

Cities had developed in an unbalanced way, because of influx control, the Group Areas Act, "coloured" labour preference policy — and now this would have to be corrected.

CPA policy was to act in the interests of the whole population, and not just sections of it, Mr Du Preez said. A balance would be found where conflicts arose.

"There is no morality in chasing people from pillar to post if there is no legal place for them to settle within reasonable distance from economic opportunities."

The key to the solution was to make land available, and to "guide" people to acceptable areas, but not resettling them without consultation — and preferably agreement.

Integrated community development provided the only long-term solution to negative factors surrounding squatter communities.

"For this to be achieved, the broader society with all its resources must be harnessed in an outreach action — or face the consequences of being swamped by masses of illiterate, jobless, uneducated and irrational people, having nothing to lose," Mr Du Preez said.

Scenario guru Clem Sunter had warned of a "ring of fire" around cities if urbanisation was not properly managed.

"Because we are dealing with people, whatever we do will be done with compassion, in the interests of all."

Provincial administration policy was to provide site-and-service rather than formal structures.

This was because of a shortage of funds, and a realisation that providing formal housing could encourage people to move to wherever it was provided — putting pressure on that area beyond acceptable limits.

opportunities. It is an awesome task. However, if it becomes a common goal, if there is a sense of community purpose, if efforts are co-ordinated and resources pooled, it a challenge that the people of the Cape can meet.

The Aids menace

AIDS in South Africa is now in its "rapid spread" stage and the rate of infection has almost doubled in one year, according to a recent and authoritative survey. Between 16% and 25% of our adult population could be infected by the year 2005, a frightening scenario.

There is no cure for Aids and the only way of combating it is through education and by influencing changes in sexual behaviour. There is criticism that too little has been done in this regard. An even more aggressive campaign to educate people, particularly the young, is needed. Perhaps sex and Aids education should be made compulsory in schools. And is it not time Aids was made a notifiable disease?

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

"But this day We shall save thee (the Pharaoh of Moses) in thy body that thou mayest be a sign to those after thee. (The Holy Quran, Chapter 10:92).

The body of Rameses II, who is regarded as the Pharaoh of Moses, has recently been discovered and preserved among the mummies in Egypt.

□ □ □ □ □ □

"The whole world is full of his glory. (Holy Bible, Isaiah 6:5).

Creation bears testimony to the incredible power of God.

about lack of business confidence, about 14 000 people live at Brown's Farm.

More than 6 000 squatters live in other locations in the Philippi area.

There are 3 900 informal settlers in Mfuleni.

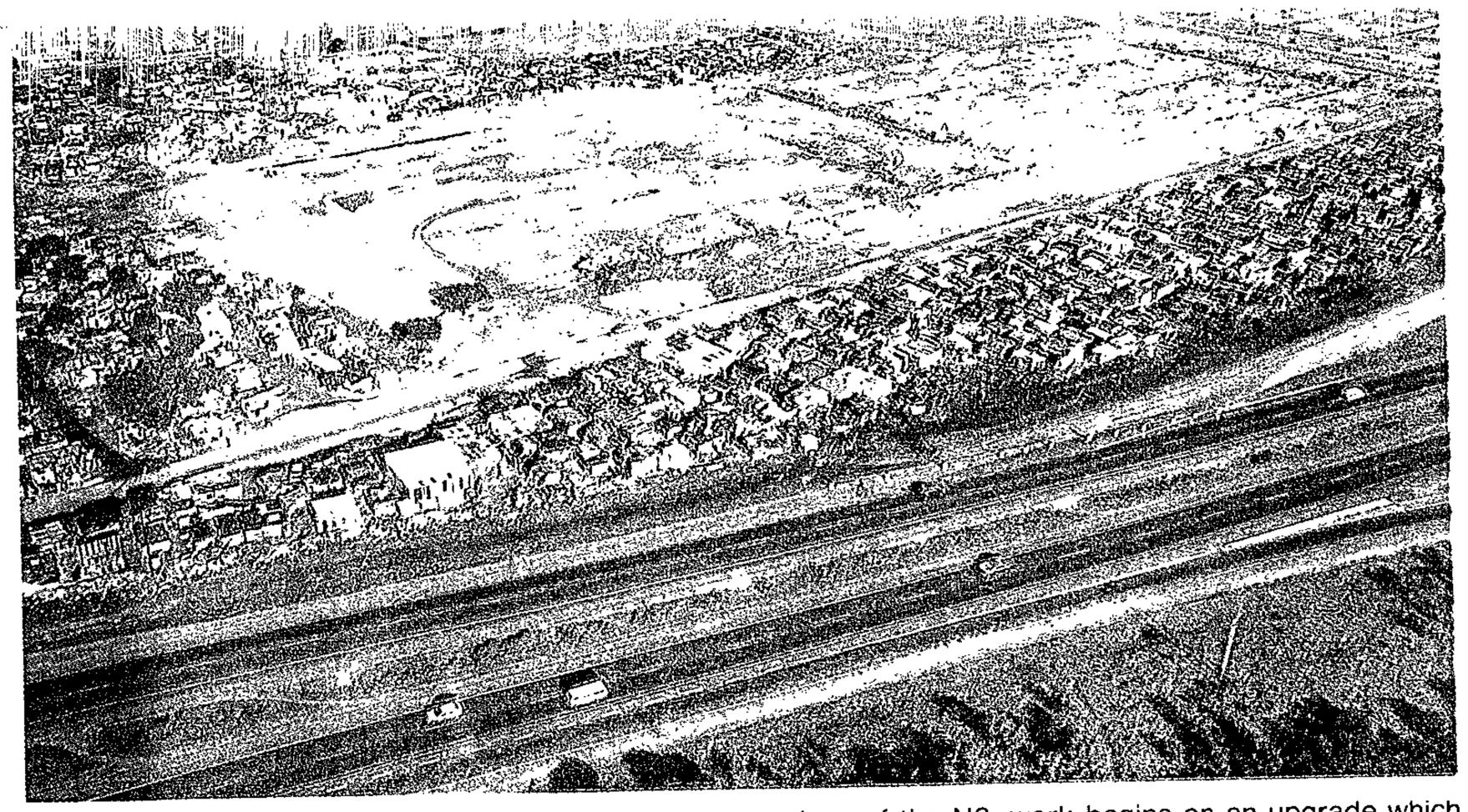
Site C at Khayelitsha is home to about 31 380 people. The rest of the sprawling township accommodates about 40 000 informal settlers.

There are about 2 964 squatters in Cape Town municipality, scattered as far afield as Athlone, Mitchell's Plain, Bokaap, District Six, Ottery, Parkwood, Retreat, Rylands, Strandfontein, Hanover Park, Pelican Park, Diep River, and Woodstock. Groups are often no more than 30 people.

In the Tygerberg, about 1 500 people live at Bloekombos near Kraaifontein, while about 780 squatters live in dispersed groups near Nooiensfontein Road in Kuils River.

Wallacedene, a "less formal township" is home to about 9 000 people.

The northern part of the metropole, which offers the most opportunities for expansion, has about 5 000 people living in 1 100 structures at Marconi Beam.



UPGRADE: Amid the crush of shanties, many on the edges of the N2, work begins on an upgrade which will include the installation of services.

Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

of formal housing, we would have no fear about doing it. But we do not," he said.

The CPA supported policies of densification, of countering urban sprawl.

Infill housing — the development of housing in open spaces in an established area — was supported in principle but created a dilemma.

"If we develop in open spaces we run the risk of destroying the base a city will need to create wealth."

The risk was a repeat of the New York situation where inner-city decay had pushed the city to bankruptcy.

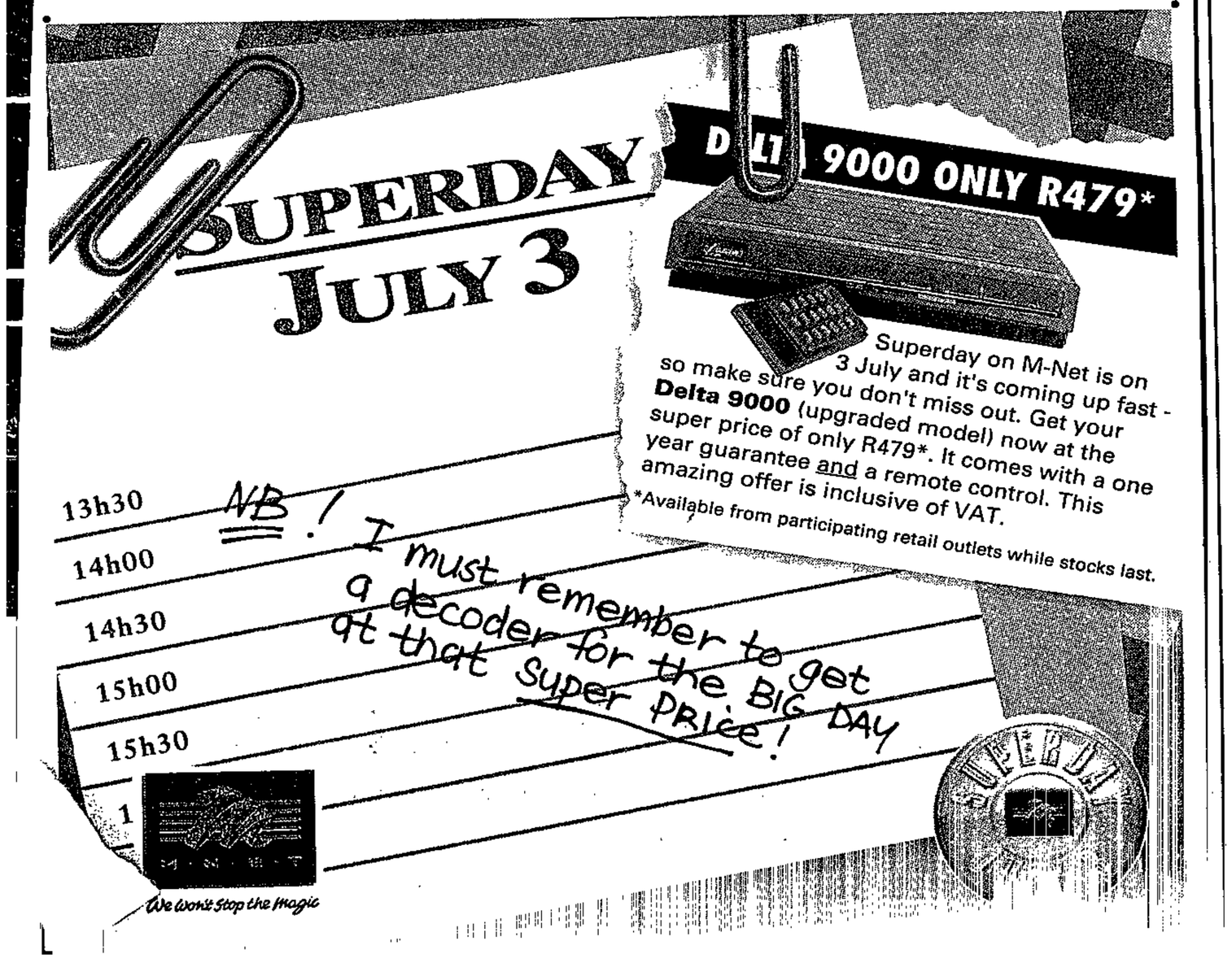
"We cannot act indiscriminately, because settled communities also have rights and they must be in a position to have confidence.

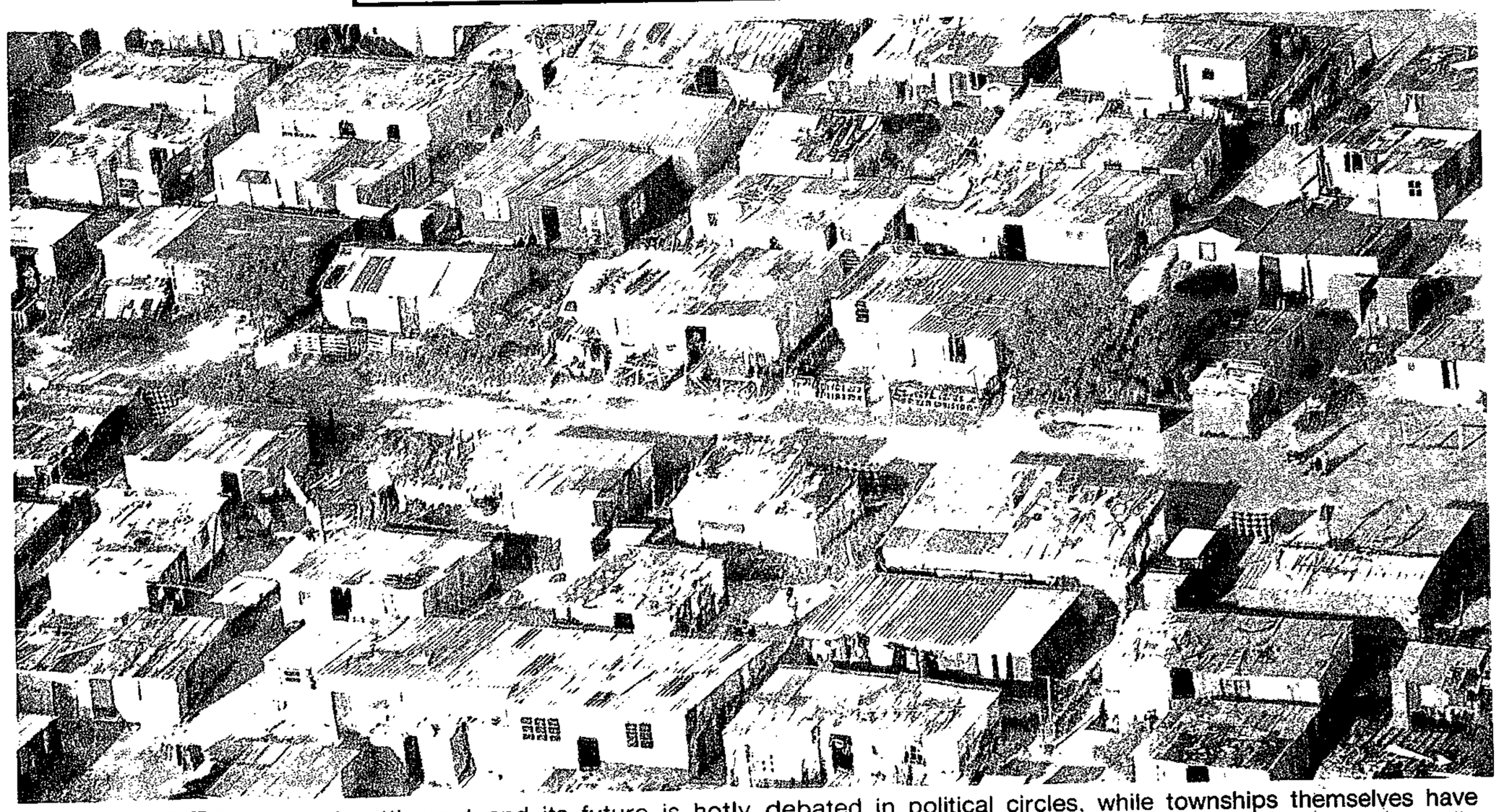
"If we stamp on their rights, we run a big risk by prejudicing economic growth."

Job creation had to be done in tandem with strategies to cope with urbanisation.

An approach was to take jobs where people are.

A 1990 study showed 60 percent of job opportunities were close to Cape Flats areas which included informal settlements.





TRUE COLOURS: Informal settlement and its future is hotly debated in political circles, while townships themselves have been hotbeds of sometimes violent contests for support. Among the neat lines of houses, a homeowner boasts his allegiance with housepaint.

Govt ignores fire victims

SOUTH 16/1 – 20/1/93

307

By Diane Coetzer

SCANDALOUS disgregard by the government for thousands of people left homeless by fires was highlighted this week.

"There are fires all the time in squatter camps and we cannot be expected to help just anyone," was the comment by a spokesperson for the state's Disaster Relief Fund.

Angry Grabouw Advice office worker and ANC executive member, Mr John Michels told SOUTH: "If over 400 white families had been made homeless by fire, disaster relief would be out in full."

The Disaster Relief Fund spokesperson claimed to be unaware of any disasters that had hit Cape squatters in recent weeks.

Waterworks Squatter camp in Grabouw was hit by a devastating fire on Saturday night. The inferno destroyed more than 80 shacks and left 400 families homeless.

Other informal settlement areas hard-hit by fires include Milnerton, where nearly 20 shacks were destroyed on Sunday; Site B, Khayalitsha, where over 15 shacks were destroyed on Christmas night; Fairyland, Paarl, where 130 people were made homeless and Ocean View, Hout Bay.

In a devastating blaze late last year, nearly 1 000 people lost their homes when fire raged through a squatter area in the Stellenbosch township of Kaya Mandi.

According to Michels, the recent Waterworks fire was the third in the area, the one immediately before it affecting as many people.

"However, following the last two fires we were not offered any help from government agencies and we do not expect any now.

"We are trying to get the area declared a disaster area but we need the co-operation of the municiplaity for that," he said.

Michels only had praise for the Red Cross which responded immediately by setting up soup kitchens and supplying tents.

The local ANC helped to organise a meeting with representatives of the local and regional dispute resolution committees, UN observors and the European Community.

Stellenbosch ANC executive member, Mr Grant Twigg, echoed Michel's concerns.

"The people left homeless by the Strongyard fire are still living in Red Cross tents and other than help from the Red Cross, some money from the Municipality and donations from private companies and individuals they have had no assistance, least of all from the State."

Other communities, however, have had even less help.

"No one has come to help us since we lost everything when our shack burnt down on Christmas night," Khayelitsha mother-of-three Ms Nolungibe Fani said.

Seven-month pregnant Ms Beauty Jolingana, mother of three-year-old Patience, has been staying with her brother since she lost everything in the shack fire.

"How can I rebuild a shack when I am pregnant and have no money to buy any materials or beds and clothes?' she asked.

Said Ms Miriam Mvumvu: "We simply have to struggle alone to rebuild our lives."

The State Disaster Relief Fund spokesperson said the only way state relief could be obtained was if the State President declared the affected areas disaster areas.

"The Act states that the State President can declare a disaster area at any time if he believes people have suffered serious material damage and loss and distress as the result of a sudden disaster," the spokesperson said.

"Otherwise people must appeal to the Red Cross or other local welfare organisations."



STARTING OVER: Khayelitsha squatters Cynthia Mhlakaza and Andy Mkiva rebuild their shack

Squatters burn to death in PE shack

FOUR people, one of them a 10-month-old baby, burnt to death in a shack at a squatter camp in Port Elizabeth at the weekend.

Police believe the fire, at 2.40am on Saturday, was caused by a paraffin lamp which fell over in the shack at the Bossie Finnis squatter camp near Kleinskool.

Firefighters arrived and put out the

news in b

fire but it was too late for the shack's four occupants. Police identified the dead as Martha Leander (21), Clinton Leander (10 months), Karel Smith (18) and Vichet Fischer (22).

Clovelly squatters relocated

(307) CT 21/1/93

SQUATTERS from the bush near Clovelly were moved to the new Site 5 camp last week.

Speaking at a town council meeting, the town clerk of Fish Hoek, Mr Doug Smit, said the move was finished by Tuesday.

He said: "The squatters brought their own shacks over the Silvermine River to the bottom of 18th Avenue and were then moved by truck to Site 5."

Squatters — work starts

Staff Reporter

THE first phase of development of the serviced sites in Imizamo Yethu squatter village in Hout Bay started yesterday, CPA spokeswoman Miss Melanie Dedekind said.

The construction company started by removing selected trees in Reserve Road, which was marked as the first part to be developed.

The CPA said that to accommodate development, selective removal of trees was inevitable, but great care was being taken to retain as much of the plantation as possible.

An independent environmental consultant was commissioned by the CPA to analyse the stone pines which would be affected and to ensure the preservation of healthy trees.

Miss Dedekind said the next stage, after the removal of the trees, would be the laying of the pipes for squatter village. (307)

She could not say how long the project would take. CT 19/1/93

Farmers help rebuild gutted squatter camp

CT 13/1/93 (307)

Staff Reporter

FARMERS in Grabouw yesterday joined in a community effort to help Waterworks squatter camp residents who lost their homes in a fire on Saturday evening.

The local dispute resolution committee said that some farmers in the area heeded the call for donations and were giving building material, clothing and food.

Chairman of the LDRC Mr Pastor Range said they were very happy with the community response as donations poured in from yesterday morning.

He did not name the farms and companies who have helped with food, clothes and building materials.

Some of the 500 homeless residents started rebuilding their homes yesterday with the help of the local council.

Police are still investigating the cause of the fire.

Radicals to blame



SUN WORSHIPPERS: If the bikinis and tangas of Clifton make you feel overdressed, then Sandy Bay is the place to be, in nowt much more than skin, glorious skin! But beware of voyeurs.



BAY OF PLENTY: The Cape is beautiful and Sandy Bay is a part of it, famed for its nudists as much as the beach, the waters and the mountain backdrop.

Rezoning planned but Sandy Bay unaffected

CAPE TOWN — The pristine land above the Sandy Bay nudist beach that belongs to Absa is safe for the present.

But a large piece of land on the Hout Bay side will be subdivided and rezoned for housing if an application by Absa to the regional services council (RSC) is successful.

The application by Absa for the subdivision of the roughly 60 ha site and rezoning from rural to residential was lodged on December 21.

Surrounded

An RSC spokesman said the proposal would be advertised for comment and objections within three weeks.

Pierre Augustyn, managing director of Absa's property arm, Bankorp Properties, said he was fully aware of the ecologically sensitive nature of the area.

THE beautiful nature area above Sandy Bay will not be affected by a residential development, a spokesman for the developers told WILLEM STEENKAMP.

"That is why we have applied for rezoning of the Hout Bay portion of the land only," he said.

"The Hout Bay side is already surrounded by residential property and all essential services are already available in the portion proposed for development.

"However, to preserve the ecological integrity of the area, our development plan includes a green fringe or buffer zone for the site where stretches of indigenous flora can be preserved among the houses.

"The housing units will not be visible or encroach in any way on the Sandy Bay side," he emphasised.

Once the proposal is advertised, the public and other interested groups will have 21 days to comment and lodge objections.

Thereafter the application and the comments on the proposed development will go before the council for approval.

Magnate

Hotel magnate Sol Kerzner also owns a section of land between Llandudno and Sandy Bay, but the spokesman for the RSC said that at this stage no application for rezoning or development had been received from Kerzner.

South 5/6 - 9/6/93

School in a stable battles to remain non-racial

(307)

Lorelle Bell

PARENTS at the Wallacedene squatter camp in Kraaifontein are battling education authorities to keep their school non-racial and to improve conditions for their children.

About 55 percent of Wallacedene's residents are African, while 45 percent are classified coloured. They face the common problem of unemployment.

But another unifying factor is their insistence that their children be educated at the Eflakeni Primary School in the camp.

Mrs Elizabeth Africa has four children at Eflakeni. She wants her children to remain at the school because they live in the area and she can keep an eye on them there.

"I also want them to speak Xhosa. I can't speak to my neighbours because I can't understand their language. At least my children will be able to," Africa said.

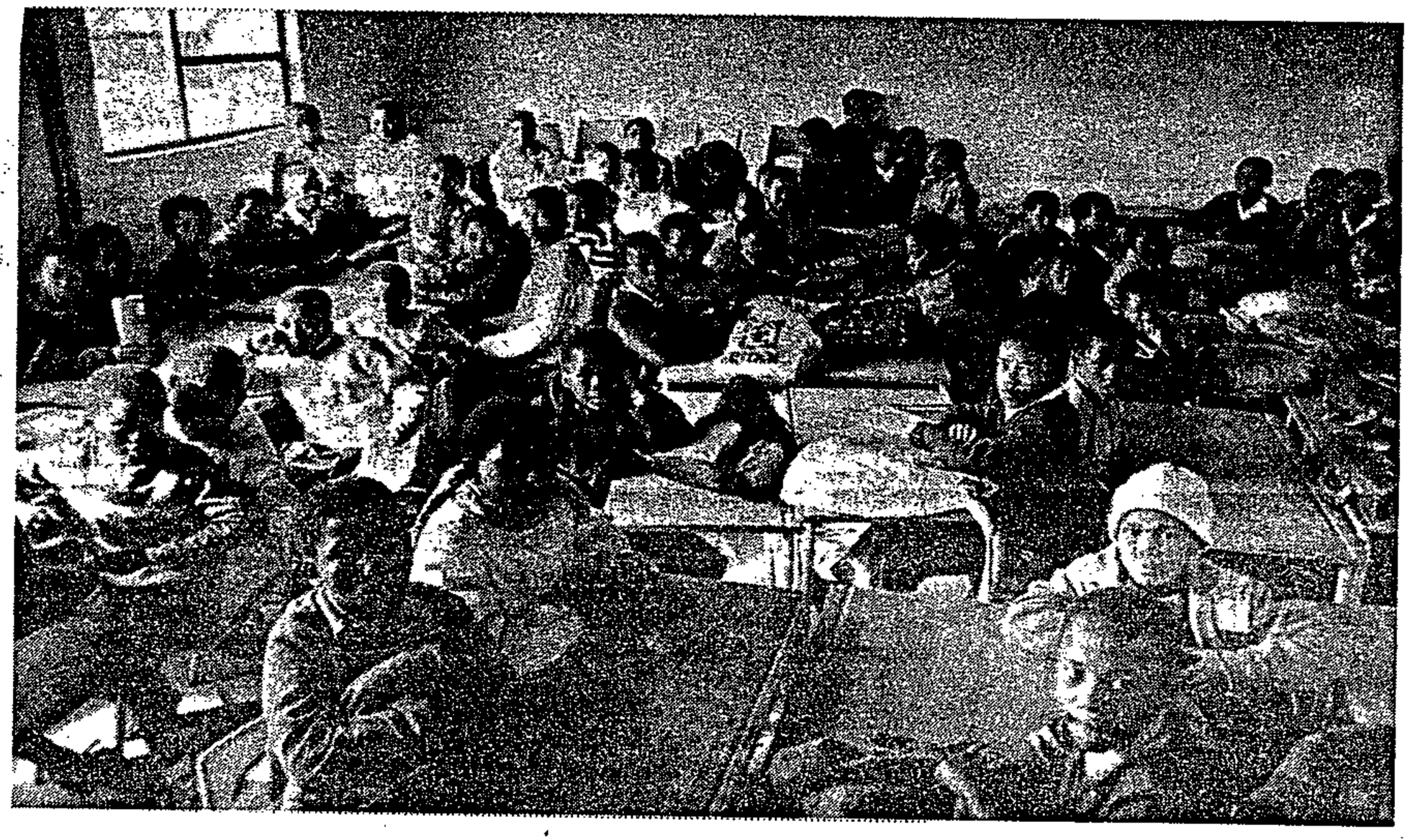
Chairperson of the school committee Mrs Blossom Julius says she wants her three children to attend Eflakeni, "because I want them to get an education and to speak Xhosa.

"We want a new school because this one is crowded and damp. Children get sick here," Julius said.

The school opened its doors at the beginning of this year, but the staff feels the Department of Education and Training (DET) is trying to block its progress.

The school has admitted over 950 pupils. For many, this has meant access to school for the first time, including for pupils well over the normal admission age.

The school caters for Sub A to Standard Six. Pupils also come from Bloekombos, Uitkyk and surrounding farm schools.



TIGHT SQUEEZE: This classroom holds 138 Sub A pupils Photos: Yunus Mohamed

But Eflakeni's resources are meagre. The main school building, formerly a stable, was donated by the Cape Provincial Administration. It has five narrow classrooms without ceilings or floors.

The floors are covered with sand. There is no electricity, so on dark winter days no work can be done.

Another two prefabricated classrooms have been donated. With only seven classrooms for 950 pupils it is hard to believe that any schooling happens there.

Principal Mr Bram Nkululeko Mhlom says appeals to the Department of Education and Training (DET) to build a school were met with the suggestion that coloured children be transferred.

"A Department of Education and Culture (DEC) inspector told us the DET had instructed each DEC school to take 30 pupils. Each school would get an extra classroom and teacher," Mhlom said.

"But the parents want their children to come here where they will learn the languages of their neighbours. DEC schools do not offer Xhosa. At Eflakeni we offer English, Afrikaans and Xhosa.

"Residents say they are people, not coloureds or blacks.

"We want to know why DET can't give the classes and teachers offered to the DEC schools to us."

Mhlom says the DET is scheduled to build a school in 1996, but the community's needs are more urgent. Enrolment is expected to increase to about 1 500 next year as more people arrive at Wallacedene.

Dr Johan Brand, Western Cape regional director of the DET, described the department's plans to build a school in 1996 as "news to me".

"We don't control the national budget. The school will be built when its turn arrives on the priority list."

A building is not Eflakeni's only need. Of the staff of 20; only six salaries are paid by the department. The rest have to depend on the charity of a poor community.

In January teachers were not paid. They got R185 each in February, R124 in March and R207 in April.

"All the teachers are South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) members. The branch met with Dr Brand on May 18 about salaries," Mhlom said.

"Teachers were told that he'd been unsuccessful in getting aid."

Brand said the union had declared a dispute with the department making the issue "sub judice".

Mhlom says that the parents are planning a march or a sit-in to put pressure on the department to pay teachers and build a school.

Settlement 'progressing'

THE development of Wallacedene, an informal settlement near Bellville, is progressing well and Phase 3, which includes services for water, sewerage, roads and lighting, will be completed before the end of th year, the Cape Provincial Administration said yesterday.

207 dt 3/6/93

Mr Fanie Naude, CPA Western Cape director of community services, said Wallacedene was over-populated due to the constant arrival of newcomers, but completion of Phase 3 would help solve the problem. More than 400 of the 558 sites in Phase 3 will be completed by the end of September.

Communicare, which acts as the CPA's agent, renders the local authority services in the area. Residents only have to pay for these services and are not obliged to pay any other amounts.

50 stage protest over squatter's shooting

ABOUT 50 residents of Wallacedene squatter camp near Kraaifontein staged a peaceful picket along Old Paarl Road on Saturday morning in protest against a recent attack on a fellow squatter.

Mr Douglas Nkwali, 30, was allegedly abducted on January 7 and driven to a deserted industrial area, where he was shot several times in the neck, back and leg, and left for dead.

Mr Peet Rens, of Joostenbergvlakte, and Mr James Downey, of Durbanville, have since appeared in Kuils River Magistrate's Court in connection with charges of abduction and attempted murder.

They were not asked to plead and were released on bail of R2 000 each. The men are due to appear in court again on February 24.

A Tygerberg Hospital spokesman described Mr Nkwali's condition as "satisfactory" at the weekend. — Sapa

(307) CT 25/1/93

Children never stood a chance

SOUTH 13/2 - 17/2/93. (307)

WITH 27 people crowded into a two-roomed house in Uitsig, Mr Michael Hendricks' four children didn't stand a chance.

All have tuberculosis.

Their house provided by the Regional ServicesCouncil has no ceilings, air vents or bedrooms.

The 16 children living there sleep mostly on the floor. Besides breathing problems, most have sores on their bodies.

"The doctors at the hospital said there are too many people living in the house and that this is unhealthy," said Hendricks, who has given shelter to his three brothers, their wives and children.

"But I can't kick them out. They lived in the bush and the children were even more sick then."

Despite their predicament, the Hendricks' family is still fortunate to have secure accommodation.

Mr John Sauls, his wife and two sons all have tuberculosis. They have been sleeping on the floor of a home in Uitsig for over five years.

He has been on the RSC's waiting list for a house for years and believed a letter written by an RSC social worker was his only hope of getting a house. Now he knows he doesn't have a chance.

"This man is a TB patient. He receives daily anti-TB therapy. Both his children are also on TB treatment. Please assist him with housing as a matter of urgency," the social worker wrote.

"I took the letter to the housing office," Sauls said. "They told me the waiting list was closed and that I should come back in two years'.

"Nothing can help me now. The owner of the house where I am living threw my things into the street. I will have to sleep outside soon."

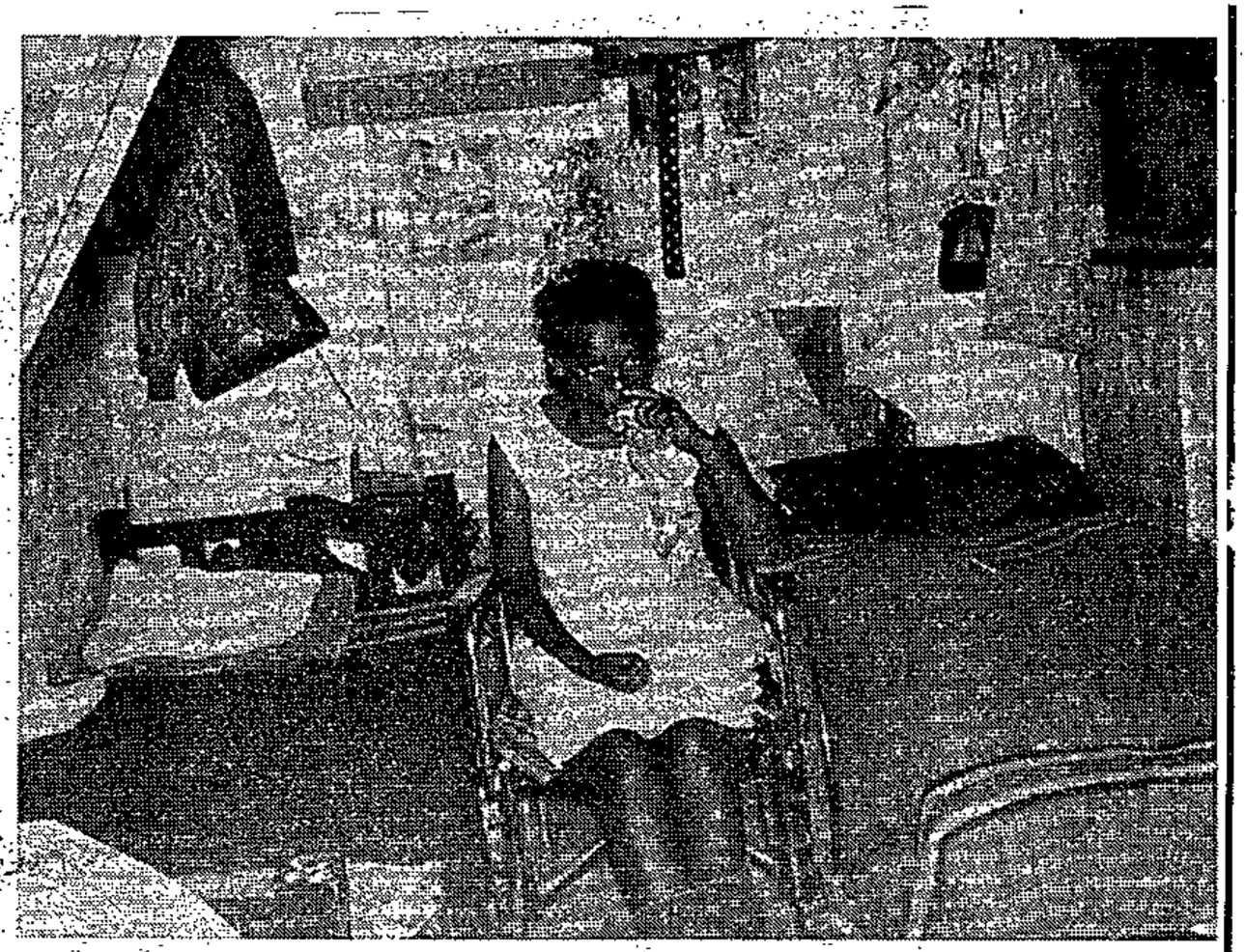
Another tragic case is that of Mrs Hendricka Manuel, 46, who had a stroke four years ago and is trapped in a wheelchair and a tiny zinc shack she shares with 10 people.

Manuel is paralysed and cannot speak. Her daughter, Marilyn, cares for her.

When the weather is good, Manuel spends her days in her wheelchair outside the shack, but in cold, wet weather she is confined to the shack for days.

There are only two single beds in the one-roomed shack and the family sleeps like sardines on the floor.

"In winter, my mother spends a lot of time in hospital. She needs proper housing, but the RSC just doesn't care."



VICTIM: Hendricka Manuel, 46, who was paralysed four years ago and now lives in a wheelchair in a zinc shack she shares with 10 other people

Squatters celebrate new primary school

Staff Reporter (307)

RESIDENTS of Brown's Farm squatter camp near Crossroads celebrated yesterday as a new school — the first in the area — opened. CT 19/11/93

However, Siyazaka primary school can only accommodate 1 080 pupils.

The building of Siyazaka comes after major struggles between the Department of Education and Training and the Western Cape United Squatters Association.

Another primary school, Eflakeni, is opening today at the Wallacedene squatter camp in Kraaifontein.

Raid drives TB family into toilet

SOUTH 13/2 - 17/2/93.

307

By Rehana Rossouw

A MOTHER and her two children were forced to sleep in a toilet in Uitsig this week when Regional Services Council (RSC) officials confiscated a tent that gave them temporary shelter.

Mrs Joan Pienaar is among a group of about 40 families the RSC has hounded out of the backyards of the filthy northern suburbs township and left in the open.

Infected with tuberculosis, the group lost their homes, food, clothing and bedding when council officials confiscated their belongings.

Their plight has outraged a social worker employed by the RSC who said she was prepared to break council regulations and speak to the press about her "frustration" at their lack of sympathy for people in the area.

"I keep writing letters to the housing department, begging them to give these people, especially those with tuberculosis, a home," she said.

"I feel so frustrated; these people come to me for help, but I know they will find little sympathy with the housing officials."

The social worker said the community had among the highest tuberculosis statistics in the Cape and she was convinced the causes were socio-economic.

The families lived in shacks in the backyards of Aster Avenue until last month. The tenants evicted them when they allegedly received letters from the RSC.

The letters apparently threatened to replace the legal tenants with the squatter. However, the squatters deny they have informed the RSC they are prepared to pay the rent.

The families moved onto a litter-filled field, where they re-erected shacks. RSC officials demolished the shacks and confiscated the building materials.

The Uitsig United Residents Front civic organisation intervened and hired tents for the destitute families. Last Friday morning, the field was raided at dawn and the tents and the families' possessions confiscated.

"All I have left are two blankets and a foam mattress," said Pienaar, who was given shelter in a stinking outside toilet about three metres long and a metre wide.

She is sleeping in the toilet with two children aged seven and one year. Her 11-year-old son sleeps on the floor of a shack nearby.

"I have tuberculosis, my sons have tuberculosis and I am waiting for the results of my baby's X-ray," said Pienaar.

"The council wants us to live like animals. I am sure their white officials won't even let their dogs sleep in a filthy toilet."

Uitsig United Residents Front spokesperson Mrs Anne Jacobs said the RSC broke an agreement it had with her organisation to provide shelter for the families.

"We met the RSC on January 27 and they agreed the people could live on the field temporarily," Jacobs said.Jacobs said she was concerned about the families as winter was approaching and they needed shelter before then.

"The RSC is heartless. They have absolutely no shame. But we will stop them, even if we have to go to the highest court in the land," she vowed.

● A spokesperson for the RSC, Mr Norman Carpenter, denied that they gave the Uitsig United Residents Front permission to erect structures on land for the shack dwellers.

"The minutes of the meeting will show that it was agreed that tenants in Uitsig will be requested not to allow the erection of additional shacks," he said.

"No agreement was made with the squatters to pay rent as they are regarded as unauthorised sub-tenants. It is not known why the legal tenants evicted the sub-tenants as no threats or letters were sent."

Carpenter said in spite of what was agreed to at the meeting, the United Front "wilfully" allowed two families to erect illegal structures in Aster Avenue.

He confirmed the structures were demolished on February 2 and the tents subsequently erected removed last Friday at the request of the House of Representatives.

Carpenter said the council had established a working group to identify land to establish an informal housing project where families could be rehoused, but did not say when housing would be available.

CASE

Miss Charmaine Davids lost her clothing, blankets and food in the council raid. She slept in the open on the field on Monday night with her six-month-old baby with two blankets donated by the Red Cross for shelter.

"I had to borrow clothes from friends for myself and my children," said Davids.

"I could hardly sleep on Monday night. The gangsters are terrible in this area and I was in the field with no protection but one blanket.

"The police are quick to protect the council officials when they attack us, but they are never here to protect us from the gangsters."

School for children of shack dwellers opens

ARG 21/1/93 307

EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

A SCHOOL for shack dwellers' children, one of several being provided for squatter communities in the Peninsula this year, has opened in Kraaifontein.

Eflakeni Primary, in Wallacedene, home to about 5 000 people on 1 100 serviced sites, will have classes from sub A to standard 5.

Dignitaries at the opening ceremony, attended by about 300 residents, included Mr Fanie Naude, of the Cape Provincial Administration, Mr Wallace Mgoqi, of the Legal Resources Centre, and Mr Archibald Ndamase, of the Department of Education and Training.

Mr Naude said Eflakeni was a temporary school because the DET could not afford a permanent one for three or four years.

The school for more than 500 pupils is a renovated farm shed divided into four rooms and the DET is to provide two pre-fabricated classrooms.

Mr Naude said the project was being funded by Power Construction and the community, with the CPA and the DET acting as facilitators.

"Eflakeni is still not large enough to cope with the number of children requiring education. The Independent Development Trust has been approached by the community for additional funding to upgrade the school with electricity, fencing and additional toilets," Mr Naude said.



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

SQUATTER SCHOOL: Principal Mr Bram Mhlom, left, Mr Archibald Ndamase of the DET and community representative Mr Babazele Bunga at the opening of Eflakeni Primary School in Wallacedene, Kraaifontein.

Mr Bram Mhlom, a former teacher at Simon Hebe High School, in Mbekweni, has been appointed principal.

Mr Mhlom, a regional ANC executive member, said that although initial arrangements with the DET had been for classes from sub A to standard 2, with six teachers and 300 pupils, residents had asked for the school to be extended to standard 5 because of a great demand for education.

"The community has employed an additional eight teachers who will be paid from community contributions. Negotiations are continuing to have this responsibilty tranferred to the DET," he said.

● Registration at township schools got off to a slow start, with principals saying a "clear picture" would emerge by Monday.

But Mr Joel Magwaca, of Langa High, said scores of pupils from rural areas wanting to register without school reports were being turned away.

A teacher at ID Mkhize High, in Guguletu, said the school was dealing with standard 6 pupils only and 220 new pupils had been registered.

SQUATTERS - CAPE

1994

D-day looms in Tafelsig squatter row

SITimes [CTMetro]

2/11/94

THE two-month-old standoff between the city council and squatters who are occupying houses illegally in Tafelsig, Mitchells Plain, is set to end this week.

Despite several backdowns by the city council in the past few weeks, indications are that the municipality will move this week to resolve the crisis.

Although the city has imposed a "news blackout" on the problem, sources close to the dispute have confirmed that the council is determined to act decisively to end the standoff.

Thursday is the deadline agreed between the council and squatters for the last of the houses to be evacuated

By NAZEEM HOWA

and indications are that firm measures will be taken to evict any illegal occupants that remain.

Squatters are occupying 260 houses built in Tafelsig for coloured families who have waited for up to 15 years for council houses. (~~234~~) (307)

The illegal occupations have been condemned by parties and organisations across the political spectrum — including the ANC — and the council's tardiness in acting has been blamed for the deepening of the dispute.

The president of the ANC, Nelson Mandela, has made it clear that although his organisation is sympathetic towards those who are homeless because of apartheid, it does not condone the illegal occupation of other people's homes.

Although the city council was granted a Supreme Court order last month to evict the squatters, the executive committee has chosen so far not to put this into force.

Instead, it has opted to negotiate with squatter leaders. The talks have led to the squatters' agreeing to move to a site adjacent to the Tafelsig houses.

Reneged

However, earlier agreements have not been adhered to. In the most recent breaking of an undertaking, squatters refused to move out of 71 of the Tafelsig homes by December 23 so that the legal occupants could move in before Christmas.

The squatters said they had reneged on the agreement because they were unhappy with the three-metre square wooden structures provided as alternate housing.

They demanded larger structures — of at least six metres by three metres — with a floor and that additional gravel roads be provided in the area.

After these demands, exco chairman Clive Keegan warned that the "full force of the law" would be used. However, the squatters remained defiant and said they would use force against anyone who tried to evict them.

Mr Keegan, citing the council's "news blackout", declined to comment yesterday.

Tafelsig squatters 'preparing to go'

307

CT 4/1/94

By PETER DENNEHY

ILLEGAL occupiers of 276 council houses in Tafelsig are reconciling themselves to having to move to sparsely serviced sites next door.

Committee leader Mr Julius Twesi showed the Cape Times a list yesterday linking names from the first 71 households due to move, to plots on the new land.

There were only 13 names on the list he provided, each written on to the list by the household head. But Mr Twesi said another copy was doing the rounds, and this contained more names.

One well-known name on Mr Twesi's list was that of Mr Thandisiswe Smile, who last week said in a newspaper interview that residents would simply put their goods back in their houses if they were taken out.

"We are busy allocating addresses here to addresses there," Mr Twesi said yesterday. "This means the people are preparing to go to that side."

Mr Twesi was confident the council would still provide wooden shacks on the new land. All the now-breached agreement had required the council to do was provide a loan of R720 per household for building materials.

The council had earlier proposed to provide 3mx3m structures, which are "about half the size" of the illegally-occupied council houses, Mr Twesi said.

evicted

ARG 4/1/94. (4818) (307)

□ Six held as sheriffs execute court order

ROGER FRIEDMAN and ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporters

SIX people were arrested as sheriffs began evicting squatters from 71 council starter homes in Tafelsig today.

They were held for trespassing after failing to comply with a court order, said police spokesman John Sterrenberg.

By 11.30am, 40 houses had been cleared of occupants and their possessions and two security guards were on duty in each. A source close to the sheriff said there were eviction orders for 58 of the 71 houses.

Tafelsig Action Committee chairman Thandiswe Smile met community members briefly at mid-morning and said he was playing a "waiting game" to see what the council's next move would be.

Meanwhile, council contractors were moving on to the "school site" next to the houses and starting to build wooden bungalows for the squatters.

About 250 houses were illegally occupied two months ago. The 71 are being cleared in terms of a court order in favour of the city council.

Soon after dawn, a cordon was thrown around Tafelsig and 400 police, backed up by the army, moved in to protect sheriffs of the court evicting the squatters.

By 8.30am the contents of 10 of the 71 houses had been put on the street.

As soon as the illegal occupants were removed, the council sent in security guards.

A city housing branch official said it was "unfair to leave those guys alone in the houses", adding that she would try to get the legal occupants in immediately.

Peace committee members were on the scene but in spite of action committee pleas for another meeting, the sheriffs continued emptying the houses.

The police contingent, heavily armed and wearing bullet-proof vests, stood by and helicopters circled.

As the evictions proceeded, a defiant Mr Smile said: "These people cannot just kick doors down. They will have to be here 24 hours a day. This action of the city council will make problems for the legal owners as well. The police

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should leave the area ... We are not going out until we get a clear response from the council to our demands."

The action committee's demands revolve around the suitability of the wooden huts offered by the council as an alternative to the houses.

Executive committee chairman Clive Keegan said today that the evictions had gone ahead only because the action committee had broken an agreement with the council.

Under the agreement, the occupants of the 71 houses were to have left by 5pm on December 23 and to have handed keys to the council's housing office in Tafelsig the next day.

The council had provided an alternative site-and-service scheme on land earmarked for a school and had offered to loan each household building materials worth about R720.

However, on December 23, the illegal occupants rejected the R720, demanding double plus material for proper floors.

Mr Keegan said the squatters' failure to honour the agreement had created an "intolerable situation" that could not be allowed to continue.

Mr Keegan said the council had no alternative but to implement the court orders it had obtained to evict the occupants of the first 71 houses. The remaining illegal occupants would be given notice to vacate the houses they were in.

Tafelsig tenants move in

307
27/11/94

By PETER DENNEHY

AFTER months of wrangling, legal tenants of several of the Tafelsig Area L council houses finally moved into their homes yesterday afternoon, just hours after the first 71 illegal squatter occupants were evicted in a dawn raid.

The squatters were moved after a massive contingent of 400 policemen and army personnel surrounded the area. All entrances to Area L were guarded. The actual evictions were carried out by the acting Mitchells Plain sheriff and a dozen assistants.

Many of the doors were kicked open when it was found that the council's keys did not fit.

There was a scuffle over a peace flag which residents held over a doorway out of which goods were being carried. They were allowed to continue to hold it up, but high.

Five arrests

Shortly after 8am, when only four households had been evicted, a tense situation developed while occupier-leaders Mr Thandisiswe Smile and Mr Julius Thwesi tried to negotiate for more time and a police withdrawal.

The council, in turn, tried to get the leaders to persuade people to remove their own possessions, but in the end the sheriff's assistants did most of the work.

Five people were arrested in connection with trespassing. One, a woman, received a swollen eye, allegedly from one of the sheriff's assistants. The latter denied hitting her.

The Peace Committee said yesterday the removal of the squatters was inevitable.

The council said it had been placed in an intolerable situation when the occupiers broke their signed agreement with it.

● Pictures — Page 5

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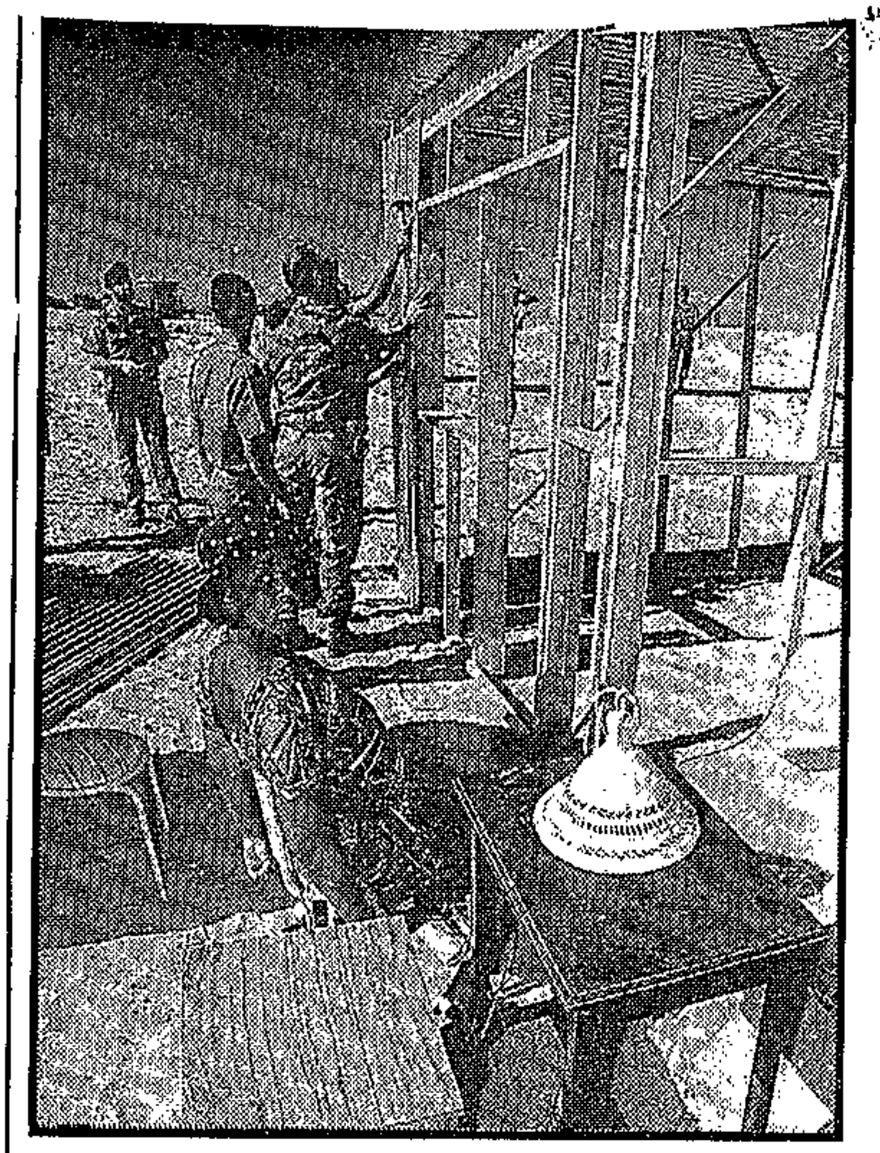
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cow," but denied making the other statements.

Earlier Brazelle-Preston pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Magistrate Mr V R Gibson said: "Traffic officers have a thankless job and if there were no traffic officers there would be chaos in the city. The court cannot and will not tolerate this kind of behaviour from the public."

The prosecutor was Mr A Bouwer. Brazelle-Preston was not represented.



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

LENDING A HAND: SADF members help Tafelsig squatters to build temporary homes on the serviced site offered to them by the city council.

Soldiers help Tafelsig squatters build homes

(124) (307) ~~304~~

KARIN SCHIMKE
Staff Reporter ARG 5/1/94

THE eviction of squatters from 71 houses illegally occupied in Tafelsig, Mitchell's Plain, ended in relative peace as SADF members put down their weapons and picked up hammers to help erect shacks for the homeless.

SADF public relations officer Captain Johan Engelbrecht said he was approached by illegal squatters who asked for help to build shacks using wood and corrugated iron supplied by the city council.

Some soldiers put down their weapons and headed into the open serviced site to start building, watched by squatters. A few armed troops watched from a short distance.

The squatters' spokesman, Thandisiwe Smile, said he had asked the SADF to help because they were "wasting our tax money just standing around doing nothing".

The SADF also brought in large pots of stew and rice to feed about 300 people but were told by Mr Smile that the squatters did not want the food.

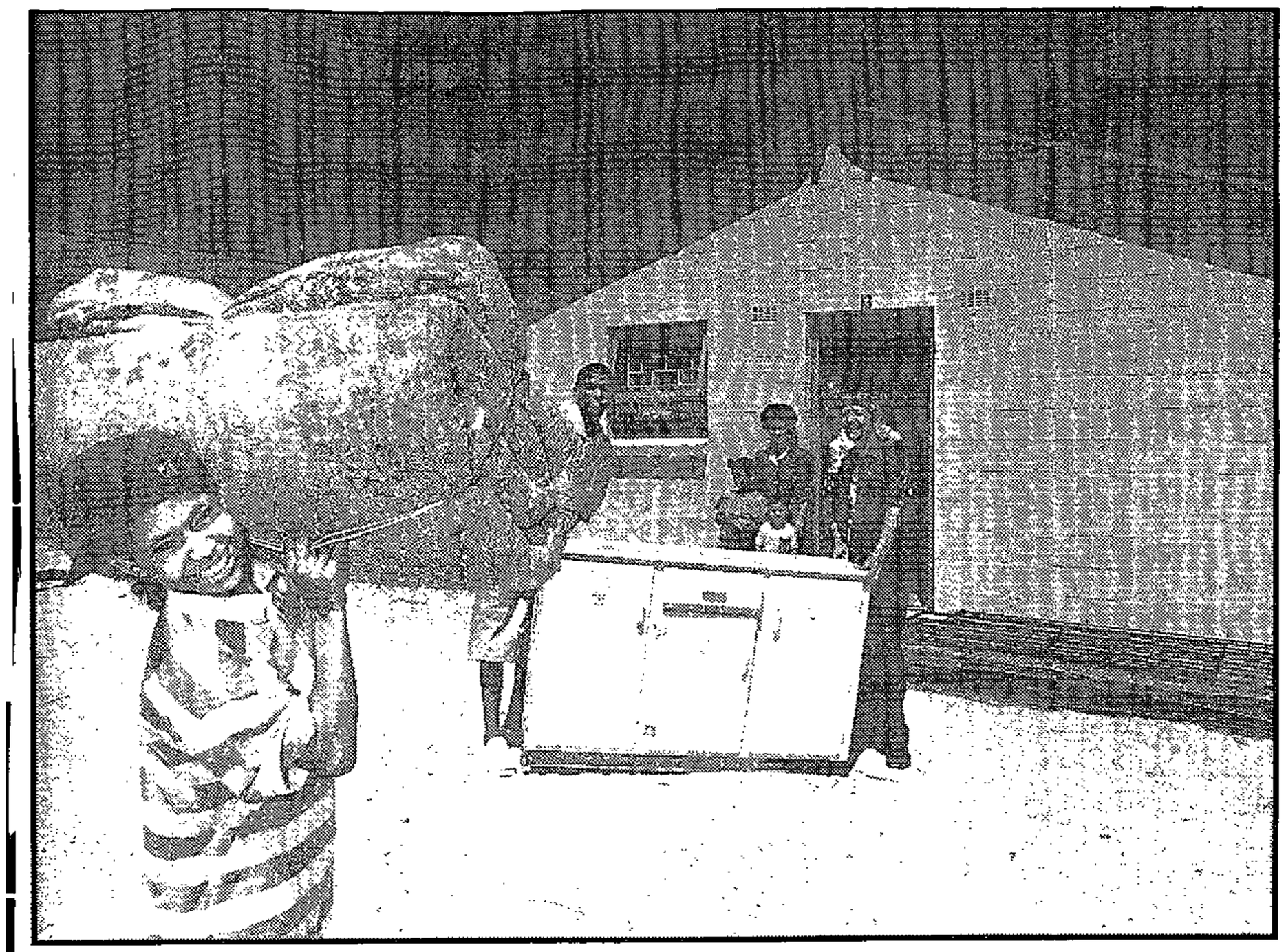
Mr Smile said: "We are a responsible community and there are people who are more in need of the food than we are."

Squatters waiting for their homes to be erected said they appreciated the help but complained about the size of the shacks and the fact that they had no flooring.

Doors and windows had not been supplied by late yesterday and some shacks did not have all the material needed to complete them.

The final eviction of nearly 80 illegal occupants of houses in Tafelsig was postponed in the Supreme Court today, until February 10.

● **Report and pictures, page 15.**



Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

IN: The Fisher family are over the moon about being in their own home after eight long years on the waiting list.

Confusion as Tafelsig residents come and go

☐ Some families moved from house to house

ARG 6/1/94 (307)

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

CONFUSION surrounded the occupation by "legal owners" of some of the houses vacated by Tafelsig squatters.

Some families were moved from house to house while others allegedly took one look at the houses and decided against moving in.

The squatters were evicted by sheriffs on Tuesday after a two-month stand-off between them and the city council.

About half the empty houses were occupied yesterday, while evicted squatters settled on adjacent land provided by the council.

Council executive committee chairman Clive Keegan said it was "quite possible, given the circumstances on Tuesday, that one or two people were moved about in the confusion". But he emphasised that all the houses had been allocated before the squatters moved in.

"Many people had already paid their deposits," he said.

Interviewed at her sister's Sheila Road house, Christelle Williams said the family moved in yesterday.

"They put us in another house for the morning until the family in this house were moved away. There was a whole mix-up ... people were being moved from house to house," Ms Williams said.

An evicted squatter who asked not to named said he arrived "home" on Tuesday evening to find his belongings on the pavement and a family had moved in.

But before he had time to move his belongings, the family moved out, saying they did not like the house — so he moved back in.

Yesterday his possessions were back in the street and a security guard was in the house.

Tafelsig was rife with allegations that the council had been in such a hurry to get occupants into the vacant houses that it had ignored the waiting list in some cases.

A yet-to-be-evicted squatter said she approached her new neighbours last night to be told "they had just been grabbed from nowhere".

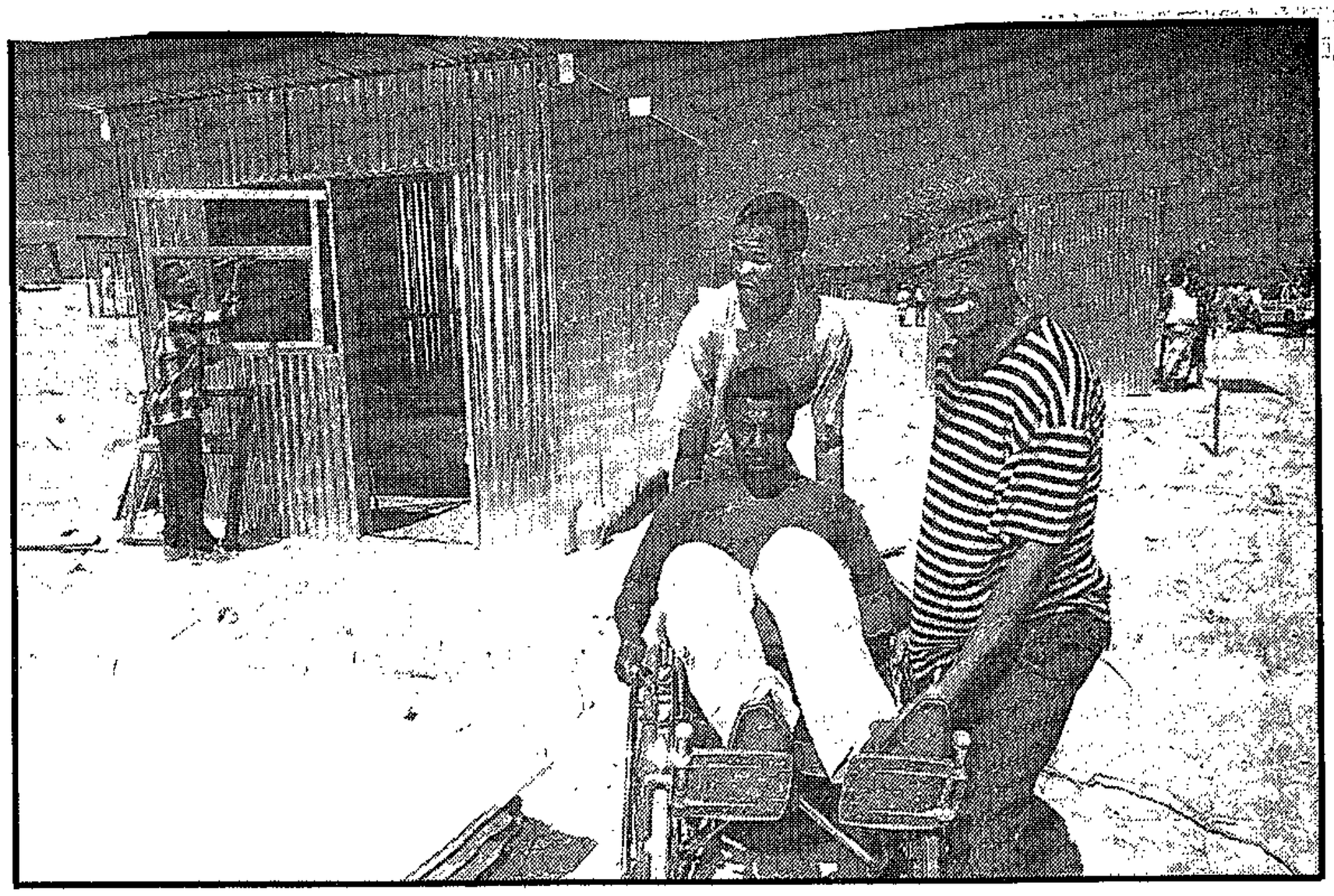
The occupants were not home when an Argus team visited the house last night.

Tafelsig Action Committee chairman Thandisizwe Smile said he had information that at least one person was not on the waiting list.

"This indicates discrimination, naked racism as well as the corrupt housing policy in the Western Cape.

"If these allegations are substantiated, we will leave it to our political organisations to sort out," Mr Smile said.

Mr Keegan dismissed the allegations as "absolute nonsense".



OUT: Evicted squatter Ismael Jordaan has great difficulty manoeuvring his wheelchair through the sand outside the shack given to him by the city council. He is helped by Siphiwe Bevu and Lungsile Klaas.

Smiles and heartbreak as real owners move in

Staff Reporter

LEGAL Tafelsig residents who moved in to their houses after squatters were evicted are beaming, but there's bitterness and heartbreak on the other side of the tracks.

Taxi driver Moegamat Dreyer said he had waited 10 years for a house and held no grudge against the squatters who prevented him from moving in last month.

"I am very grateful ... I have four children and a wife ... we have been moving from place to place," he said.

Rosalyn Augustus also has four children and lived in a "tiny room" in Woodlands before moving to her own home this week.

"I will begin by painting the house inside and out and laying carpets," she said.

Shamilah Williams has been waiting for a house for nine years.

"I feel satisfied and very happy," she said of her new home.

"I am not bitter about the squatters ... I'm sorry for them, but everyone must wait their turn."

Rieduwaan Fisher said he had hoped to move in by Christmas "but this is at least early in the new year".

Minus Klaas was evicted on Tuesday and moved to a 3 sq m shack provided by the city council on Tuesday night.

"It is very small, the ground is not level and the streets are in a shocking condition.

"I was not given enough corrugated iron sheeting and I'm convinced the whole thing will blow down in the next strong wind," he said.

Socrates Ndaka agreed the shacks would not last long in the wind.

"This house is not good. It's too small ... we are eight in my family. The shack I built in Khayelitsha was much stronger than this. It was built on foundations," he said.

Wheelchair-bound Ismael Jordaan said it was impossible to move all his belongings into his tiny structure.

"It is difficult to move the chair around in such a confined space too. And I need assistance to go anywhere because I cannot get my wheelchair through the soft sand.

"But what can I do? I have nowhere to go."

SQUATTERS

Fm 7/1/94

Property under threat

Cape Town City Council turned tough this week and started evicting squatters from 276 council houses at Tafelsig in Mitchells Plain after squatter leaders allegedly reneged on an agreement to vacate voluntarily.

Backed by about 400 police and troops, sheriffs of the court moved in to clear possessions from 71 houses. The council planned to use security guards to secure the properties, until the legal occupants could move in, but squatter leader Thandisizwe Smile warned that evicted squatters would try to regain occupation.

Notices to leave the remaining 205 houses within 14 days have been served on the other squatters. If they refuse they also risk forcible eviction.

Cape Town executive committee chairman Clive Keegan says the failure by squatters to honour the agreement reached on December 17 created an "intolerable situation" that could not be allowed to continue. "While the city council has attempted at all times to deal with this matter with tact and patience, we have an obligation towards approximately 276 families who have been on the council's waiting list for up to 15 years and have for two months been denied the opportunity to move into homes allocated to them."

The squatters were due to have been evicted before last month's agreement, following the collapse of earlier negotiations, but further talks led to what appeared to be an amicable settlement.

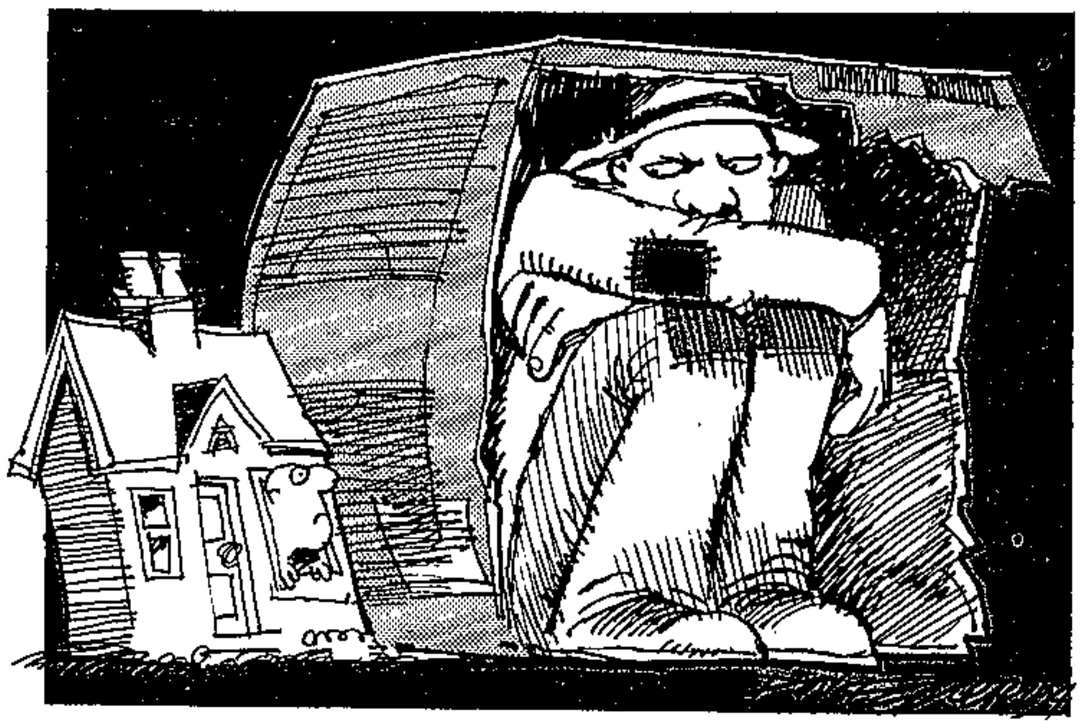
The crisis began in October when people from neighbouring Khayelitsha occupied the uncompleted Tafelsig houses, all of which had been allocated to families on the council's housing waiting list. In some cases deposits had been paid by prospective purchasers. In terms of current policy, the council provides some housing — rented and for sale — to coloured people. It is not responsible for black housing.

Last month's agreement, signed by the council and a committee claiming to represent the squatters, included provision for 71 houses to be vacated by December 23. The council undertook to make available a nearby vacant site for occupation by squatters and provide building material worth about R720 for one occupant from each illegally occupied house.

The agreement also provided that if any of its terms were breached, the council could take whatever steps it deemed necessary to evict the squatters.

Keegan says on December 23 the squatters rejected the council's offer of material worth R720 and demanded double the amount plus material for a proper floor. Under the circumstances, he says, the council had no option other than to act in terms of the agreement and implement the eviction order.

☐ In Durban, an agreement was brokered by National Housing Minister Louis Shill to resolve the Cato Manor squatter crisis, which has dragged on since the beginning of November when shack dwellers from the black Chesterville township spilled over the N2 highway to Wiggins Road, Cato Manor, and occupied new houses allocated to low-income Indian families by the House of Delegates.



But the squatters — there are now 1 200 families — are showing no signs of moving.

Apparently they will stay where they are until alternative accommodation is provided by the authorities.

The positive spin-off of the crisis is that large-scale housing development will, after long delays, begin at Cato Manor.

The downside is that rewarding the squatters for taking the law into their own hands creates a dangerous precedent.

Durban management committee chairman Peter Mansfield argues that "this sort of issue will be much more manageable, once democratically elected national and regional governments are in place. A big part of the current problem is that many of those affected regard existing authorities as illegitimate."

☐ At Nooitgedacht, a controversial site north of Sandton, white residents have been manning overnight roadblocks to prevent squatters taking building materials to a settlement on nearby land. ■

Eviction notices on Tafelsig illegals

307

CT 18/1/94

Staff Reporter

EVICTION notices were yesterday served on 200 families illegally occupying houses at Tafelsig, Mitchells Plain, the City Council confirmed last night.

Those failing to comply would be removed by force and resettled on serviced sites and supplied with building materials valued at R720, spokesman Mr Ted Doman said.

They have until the end of the month to leave.

Mr Doman said the families against whom eviction notices had been served, had been in the homes since the first illegal squatters started moving out late last year.

He said in December the council served notice against six families in the area, but when they had served these, another 70 had already moved in.

By the time notices were served on the additional 70 families and they had been evicted, the number had swelled to about 200 families, Mr Doman said.

Killing follows eviction meeting

JOHANNESBURG. — A 40-year-old man was stabbed and hacked to death by 10 unidentified attackers following a meeting to discuss the resettlement of the Nooitgedacht squatters at Swanieville near Randfontein, police said yesterday. CT 11/11/94 (307) (127)

Mr Patrick Masigo died at the weekend after his assailants pulled up next to him in the road and attacked him with sharp objects.

Police linked the attack to a meeting earlier on Sunday which failed to reach agreement concerning the relocation to Swanieville of squatters evicted on Saturday from Nooitgedacht by white land-owners.

Early yesterday 50-year-old Mr Izak Thabete was found seriously wounded with chop and burn wounds at Swanieville.

Earlier police found the home of Inkatha Freedom Party member Ms Agnes Dube razed to ground. An eight-year-old boy was allegedly abducted from the house by the attackers, police said. — Sapa

35 Tafelsig squatters go, others agree to move out

CT 1/2/94

THIRTY-FIVE more illegal tenants of houses in the Tafelsig area have vacated the homes and another 38 have undertaken to move out. (24) (307)

Yesterday was the Cape Town City Council's deadline for 98 illegal occupiers to leave the houses, and another 103 occupiers will be given notice shortly.

An assistant city administrator, Mr Attie van der Merwe, said no action would be taken immediately to force the squatters out. The council would await their response to the deadline, he said. — Sapa

More Tafelsig squatters evicted



Pictures: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

EVICTED: Monica Leeu, mother of a three-month-old baby, at the new site after being evicted from one of the houses illegally occupied in Tafelsig.

EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

TAFFELSIG was today teeming with members of the Security Forces and police as another batch of squatters was evicted from the council houses.

The city council said that of the 98 families who had been given notice, 50 had already moved, and another 23 had agreed to do so. The remaining families would be evicted today.

All had been served with eviction notices which expired yesterday.

The squatters said at least five men were arrested yesterday as they ripped doors and windows from the houses to use as building materials at the new site nearby.

Khaya Maseko of the Tafelsig Action Committee, which represents the squatters, said the city council had failed to provide the families with building materials, as promised, in time for yesterday's deadline.

While the rest of the families had vacated the houses last week, he said, the eight could not leave as the council supplied only wooden frames without doors and windows.

Some of the families were not home when sheriffs removed their possessions from the houses today.

He said the situation was "very confusing" as the squatters had had to deal with three different groups of city council officials.

While one group had assured the squatters yesterday that they would not be evicted until all the building material had been provided, another group had a "different agenda".

"Most people went to work today believing they would have to leave only when materials had been provided, but the sheriffs just arrived and kicked open doors, before throwing people's possessions out," he said.

The mother of a three-month-old baby, Monica Leeu, said her boyfriend Winston Ntlonti was yesterday arrested by members of the Peninsula Security Guards who found him ripping a window out of a house to use at the new site.

Another squatter, Mrs Nomboniso Malima, said at least four men in her street had been arrested for similar offences.

Squatter leaders chosen by Nats

307

By ANTHONY JOHNSON

CABINET stalwarts — and squatter leaders Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana from Crossroads and Mr Mali Hoza from Khayelitsha — are among the leading candidates appearing on National Party lists for parliament.

But NP Cape leader Dr Dawie de Villiers, who tops the region's choice for the central parliament, complained last night that various "Xhosa-speaking" members of the party had been forced to withhold their candidacies because of fears for their safety and that of their families.

He said the current climate of violence and intimidation was "a deeply disturbing development which casts a shadow over the election".

Topping the Western Cape candidates for the provincial parliament are Law and Order Minister Mr Hernus Kriel (1), Deputy Minister of Land and Regional Affairs, Mr Lampie Fick (2), and Minister of the Budget and Housing in the House of Representatives, Mr Gerald Morkel (3).

Significantly, an early contender for the position of Western Cape prime minister, Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring, only appears ninth on the consolidated list.

CT 2/2/94

Candidates likely to make it as MPs in the regional parliament after the election include controversial Crossroads squatter boss Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana (15) and former Khayelitsha mayor Mr Mali Hoza (21).

Following Dr De Villiers are Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Mr David Graaff (2), Minister of Sport Mr Abe Williams (3), MP for Durbanville Mr Frik van Deventer (4) and Swellendam MP Mr Nic Koornhof (5).

ANC acts to prevent Delft squatter invasion

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Weekend Argus Reporter

307

THE African National Congress is mobilising its Cape Flats members to prevent squatters from occupying empty houses ahead of rumours of an imminent invasion in Delft. ARG 19/2/94

ANC regional secretary Lerumo Kalako said a group of people including squatter leader Thabo Bimba were seen scouting around Delft yesterday, threatening to re-occupy the houses vacated following police action in December.

They apparently told ANC officials they were looking at which houses to occupy.

Most of the houses filled during the first wave of illegal occupations have been completed and occupied by legal owners, but a new batch of houses is nearing completion.

Mr Kalako said he suspected the occupation of houses was a "National Party ploy" to scare Cape Flats voters.

"It is also coming increasingly to our attention that Mr Bimba is on the National Party payroll and they are using him. We cannot allow this to happen."

He said regional deputy secretary Chris Nissen was mobilising members of the Delft and neighbouring ANC branches to repel the squatters. "We are also trying to organise marshals," he said.

"It is preferable for us to stop this before it starts again."

Last night all was quiet in Delft.

■ This week Mr Bimba told Weekend Argus that township residents were desperate for houses and planned to take matters into their own hands "never mind what the ANC says".

News by R Friedman, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town.

PE

Smartie Town squatters evicted from starter homes

☐ Police stand guard at Hanover Park development

307 ARG 21/2/94

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN and JOHN YELD
Staff Reporters

CAPE Town city council today ended the illegal occupation of 40 "starter" homes in Smartie Town, Hanover Park.

Residents said the evictions began at 6.30am when security staff, backed by police, moved in to Smartie Town.

Exco chairman Clive Keegan said the action "again illustrated how firmly we'll act against illegal occupations".

He said the council was aware of the housing shortage in greater Cape Town.

"The theft of other people's homes is no solution. We'll continue to act as we did in Tafelsig," Mr Keegan said.

Internal Stability Unit members used Casspirs to seal off the area and non-residents were questioned before they were allowed in.

Police were in the area, according to spokesman John Sterrenberg, "in a protection capacity because it's a known gangster area".

The coloured squatters, who moved into the sub-economic houses in November, refused to move unless the council provided them with serviced land and building materials.

Some of the families who moved into the Smartie Town houses — so-called because they are painted a variety of colours — described their move as a pre-emptive strike "to prevent them from being occupied by blacks".

Council housing director Charlotte Sims was in Hanover Park to oversee the evictions.

Mrs Sims said six of the 60 starter homes occupied were sold to occupants who qualified to buy them.

Protracted negotiations then followed with the Hanover Park Civic Association and Smartie Town residents to end the occupation.

Mrs Sims said community representatives gave the council an undertaking that the occupation would end.

At a meeting on January 21, the council gave them until February 3 to get illegal occupants out.

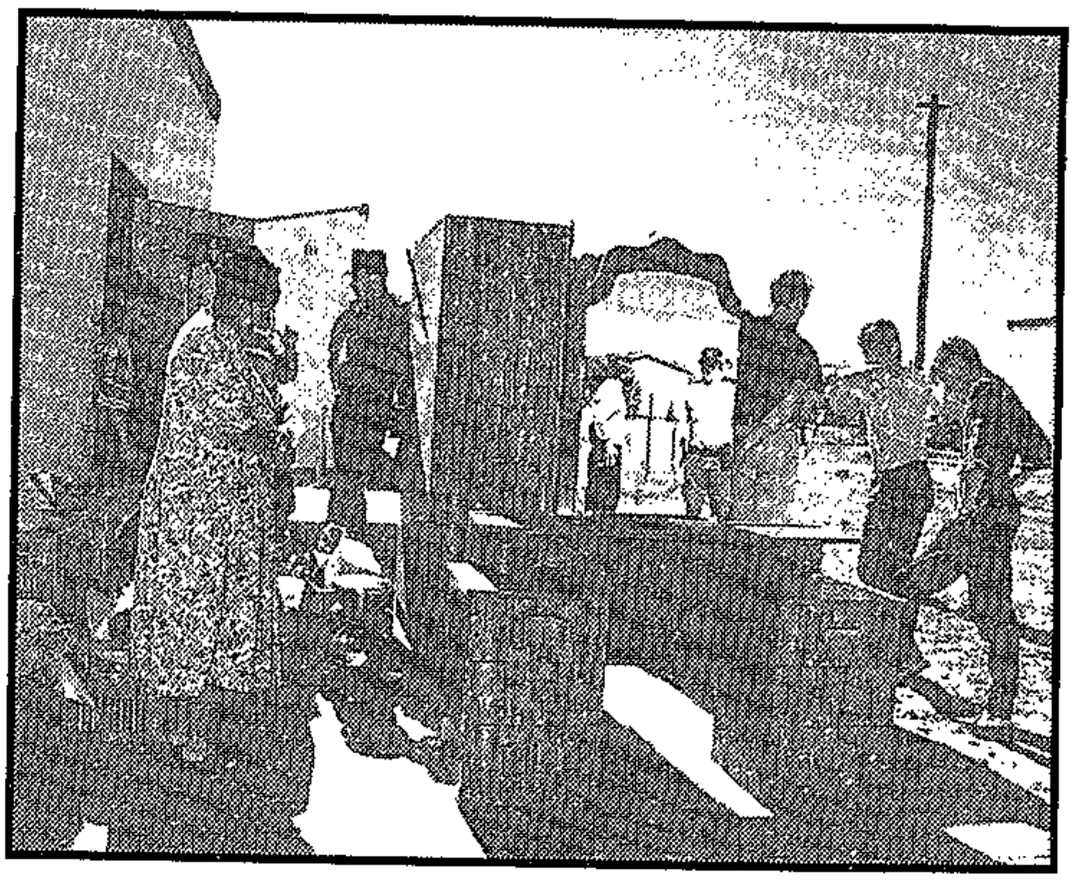
"We said we would act. We also agreed not to act against 14 of the 54 illegal occupants because we would have assisted them in any case."

Hanover Park resident Anthony Daniels, who negotiated with the council on behalf of Smartie Town residents, slammed the evictions.

"We've agreed to find a solution through negotiations, but the council is imposing its will on the people."



EVICTED: Two women sit outside the "starter" home in Hanover Park from which they were evicted today. Pictures: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.



MIRROR IMAGE: An illegal occupant stands upset as city council security staff remove her furniture from a house in Smartie Town, Hanover Park.

All Tafelsig squatters evicted

(307) (~~294~~) CT 25/2/94

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS were yesterday evicted from the 19 remaining illegally occupied Tafelsig council houses by the sheriff of the Supreme Court, police and the City Council's administration department's security branch.

Deputy city administrator Mr Attie van der Merwe said none of the squatters had to be forcefully removed and most were "just waiting for the trucks to move their belongings".

He said that earlier this month notices were served on squatters in the remaining 106 illegally occupied houses, calling on them to move to the specially serviced erven known as the School Site in Mitchells Plain.

Of the 106 families on which notices were served only 19 remained until yesterday.

Meanwhile, five Hanover Park squatter families yesterday threatened to move back into the Smartie Town houses from which they were evicted on Tuesday if the houses' legal occupiers did not move in by 11am yesterday.

City Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said the squatters had not reoccupied the houses by late yesterday afternoon because "police were keeping a close watch".

The council has laid complaints of trespassing against the squatters because they were refusing to move off a site next to Smartie Town and were preventing repair work.

Old, old agon



☐ **AT HOME:** "Auntie" Rachel Plaatjies, who arrived at Sun City squatter camp seven years ago, in front of her seven-room shack.



☐ **POPULAR PASTIME:** Nothing like a game of do

ARG 19/3/94

30

COMMUNITY workers in the Helderberg basin believe that the disadvantaged communities in the existing squatter camps in the area do not enjoy the level of attention that those in the Cape Flats and Milnerton areas do.

Few people realise that the Helderberg communities have a different character from those closer to the city, although the universal problems of unemployment, lack of housing and sanitation and poverty are the same.

Demographers predict that the sprawling Cape Flats townships and squatter camps will extend up to the Hottentots Holland mountains before the end of the century.

Already, Khayelitsha is expanding rapidly towards the Macassar area.

Weekend Argus recently visited the area and spoke to some community leaders and inhabitants.

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE new South Africa is seven weeks away, but the people of Macassar and surrounds are still trying to cross the ever-increasing stumbling-blocks of the old one.

And the major worries of the people of the fledgling Chris Hani squatter camp near town are the advent of winter and its floods, lack of taps and inadequate refuse removal.

When Weekend Argus visited the area we were greeted by a traditional South African school carnival sight: marching drum majorettes followed by smiling, waving beauty queens on the back of a bakkie.

But the glamour of the procession was in stark contrast to the rows of brown brick flats, breeding ground of crime, overcrowding and accompanying evils.

Said Macassar and Districts Residents Association spokesman Ron Halford: "Unemployment in this area — and continually growing.

"Large businesses like AECI and Somchem have been retrenching workers and the Gant factory has closed down.

"Besides the adult drug problem, we have just discovered a gang of children aged between eight and 15 who are hooked on Mandrax."

Housing is a huge problem.

"They (the local government) never built affordable housing. Provision for the children of Macassar was never made. The management committee was filling its own pockets."

A "product of apartheid", Macassar became home for hundreds of families who were forcibly removed from Somerset West and the Strand area in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Residents Association founder member Pieter Jacobs, who was practically forced to move to Macassar when he had to leave his house in Blikkiedorp, Strand, 22 years ago, said: "We have seen great oppression. During the riots I was put in prison many could not shoot children.

"I prayed to the Lord to make South Africa a country where everyone can live together happily."

Authorities say there are 22 000 people living there now, but a Residents Association survey has shown that there are between 45 000 and 47 000.

Mr Halford said the association, which was supported by an estimated 80 percent of the residents, was instrumental in giving squatters now living in the Chris Hani camp refuge in a local civic hall ... and then year's Easter floods forced them out of them shacks on a neighbouring farm.

The presence of the squatters have become the subject of a dispute between the residents assocation and the local management committee.

More than 100 families live there already, but many more are on a waiting list.

Mr Halford said: "We've applied for extra taps and the plans have been marked where the taps must go, but they're not doing anything. It seems like the local authorities are delaying everything



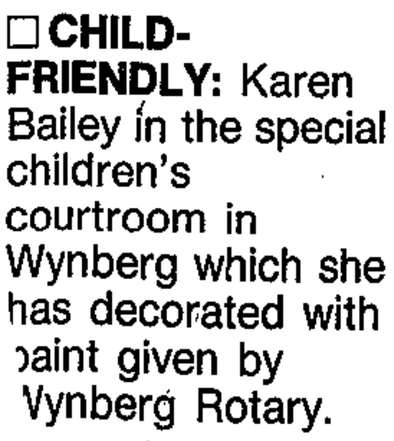
☐ **COMMUNITY MEN:** Macassar and Districts Residents Association founder members Ron Halford, left, and Pieter Jacobs outside the Macassar advice office.

men were playing dominoes in their backyard and young people were chatting in the shade.

Some shacks had well-kept gardens; others boasted small vegetable crops.

"Our grandfathers and grandmothers had *mos* always worked for next to nothing. That's how we grew up. I know both hardship and pleasure.

New telecourt tops, kids testify



☐ **CHILD-FRIENDLY:** Karen Bailey in the special children's courtroom in Wynberg which she has decorated with paint given by Wynberg Rotary.

Picture: DOUG PITHEY Weekend Argus

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

FRIENDLY fantasy characters and a tranquil stream will help to relax anxious child witnesses testifying in the special children's court in Wynberg.

The court has a video camera which allows the child, helped by an intermediary, to testify on closed-circuit television and so not come into direct contact with the accused and other parties, who can watch the testimony on a television screen in another courtroom.

Social worker Elzabé Durr-Fitschen said the law made provision for child-friendly courtrooms, but the state had not provided money for their decoration.

The Wynberg branch of Rotary had recently given paint and curtains to improve the atmosphere in the special court, and Wynberg resident and budding artist Karen Bailey, 18, spent most of the week finishing her imaginative murals.

Ms Durr-Fitschen said the room was big, but the murals made it look smaller and created a less intimidating atmosphere. The Constantiaberg Homecraft Centre has given a host of soft toys.

"There is absolutely no doubt that the special room is making it much easier for young children to testify. You can't even compare it to an conventional court set-up."

Parents are also usually very relieved when they seen the room."

Most of the children testifying in the room are aged between three and 12.

ARG
19/03/94
(307)

Aussies me

AGG 14/03/94



□ **DOUBLE TAKE:** Rusty Mulock-Bentley, al

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

DOWN to earth, non-committal and, dare I say, as meek as lambs — off the field, that is...

This was my impression of the visiting Aussies after spending a morning at Newlands watching them practise for the big test and interviewing some of them.

Gone was the fire that marked the performance of the Australians in the first test against South Africa at the Wanderers when spinner Shane Warne and aggressive fast bowler Merv Hughes were fined for hurling "verbal abuse" at the South Africans.

But, except for comments like Cape Town seems to be "an OK place", the Aussies seemed reluctant to speak to the Press.

That probably was understandable, as local and Australian Press came down harshly on them after last weekend's swearing and, in one case, bat-waving incidents.

After all, they are professionals. Cricket is their job.

But, showing that he had a heart to match his moustache, big Merv still had a moment to shake hands with, and sign his autograph for, 17-year-old muscular dystrophy victim Brandon Isaacs, whose dream it had been to meet the Aussie hero.

Spinbowler Tim May and specialist wicketkeeper Ian Healy are known as the jokers of the team, but while both were perfectly polite, they were hardly animated.

Coaxed into a short interview, May said being in the limelight affected "different people in different ways".

He was a professional and it was "all about competing".

And, sometimes, it was frustrating when he was "wanting to have my dinner" when people wanted to talk to him.

So, the "privacy factor" was a drawback, but the money was "good".

What was it like being part of a team of national heroes?

"I suppose we've all got egos. But, you get used to the attention."

It was his first visit to Cape Town — "quite a pretty spot, but then any place along the beach is pretty good".

Not particularly keen to comment on last weekend's incidents, he said he had "nothing against" journalists.

"In any sport you're going to get good Press you like and bad Press you hate. You've got to accept that."

Healy, known for his constant comments behind the wickets, said he had not "seen much" of Cape Town, but the "place seems to be OK".

The people had "generally been great" and the grounds were "good".

A married man, he was used to being away from home a lot and it did sometimes get to him.

"But it's a lot harder on the wives. We've always got 15 mates around us."

Then charming Michael Slater arrived on the scene, designer shades and all, and it was clear why he had been branded the "jock" of the team.

Frequently flashing his perfect smile, he was quite happy to chatter on about Cape Town's "wonderful beaches".

"I've got a friend in Cape Town, so yesterday I got driven to the beaches on the other side. I had a great swim, but the water was chilly!"

He would "love to come back here for a holiday" and for further tours.

And, he animatedly enthused about the team's visit to the Lost City and how he wanted to visit the Kruger National Park.

Not wanting to comment on the bad Press following the previous test, he said: "Last weekend, the Aussie Press had some negative things to say after we lost, but I'm sure people's attitudes will change if (or did he say 'when'?) we win this one."

It did get quite hard at times to be away from home and loved ones for so long at a time and last week he had been "quite homesick".

"But, I thoroughly enjoy the lifestyle and wouldn't want to be doing anything else.

"We must concentrate on the game now. We are here to win. This is a crucial game for us."

Then, the practice session was over and the team was whisked off to their hotel to relax at the pool.

All quite harmless... (?)

The good, ... who d

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Weekend Argus Reporter

CLAPPING and cheering aside, there are essentially two legal ways for spectators to become involved in a test match — through the written or the spoken word.

And they did both at Newlands on the second day of the second test between South Africa and Australia.

The carriers of the winning witty (written) banner yesterday won five cases of tipple from the sponsors of the local team for this effort: "The Good, the Bad, and Merv Hughes."

Another banner proclaimed: "Shane Warne thinks the sun shines down under."

90 families homeless after fires at Marconi Beam camp

5/4/94 Arg. 307

☐ Residents say negligent use of candles, cooking fires the cause

NORMAN JOSEPH and PATRICK FARRELL
Staff Reporters

TWO devastating fires in the Marconi Beam squatter camp have left a man seriously injured and about 90 families homeless.

Two fires at the weekend were the fourth and fifth to rage through the camp in the past five months.

On Friday, about 2.20pm, a small cooking fire went out of control in a brisk south-easter and set shacks alight.

Marconi Beam Civic Committee member Elda Mahlentle said 55 shacks were razed as screaming women and children ran for their lives.

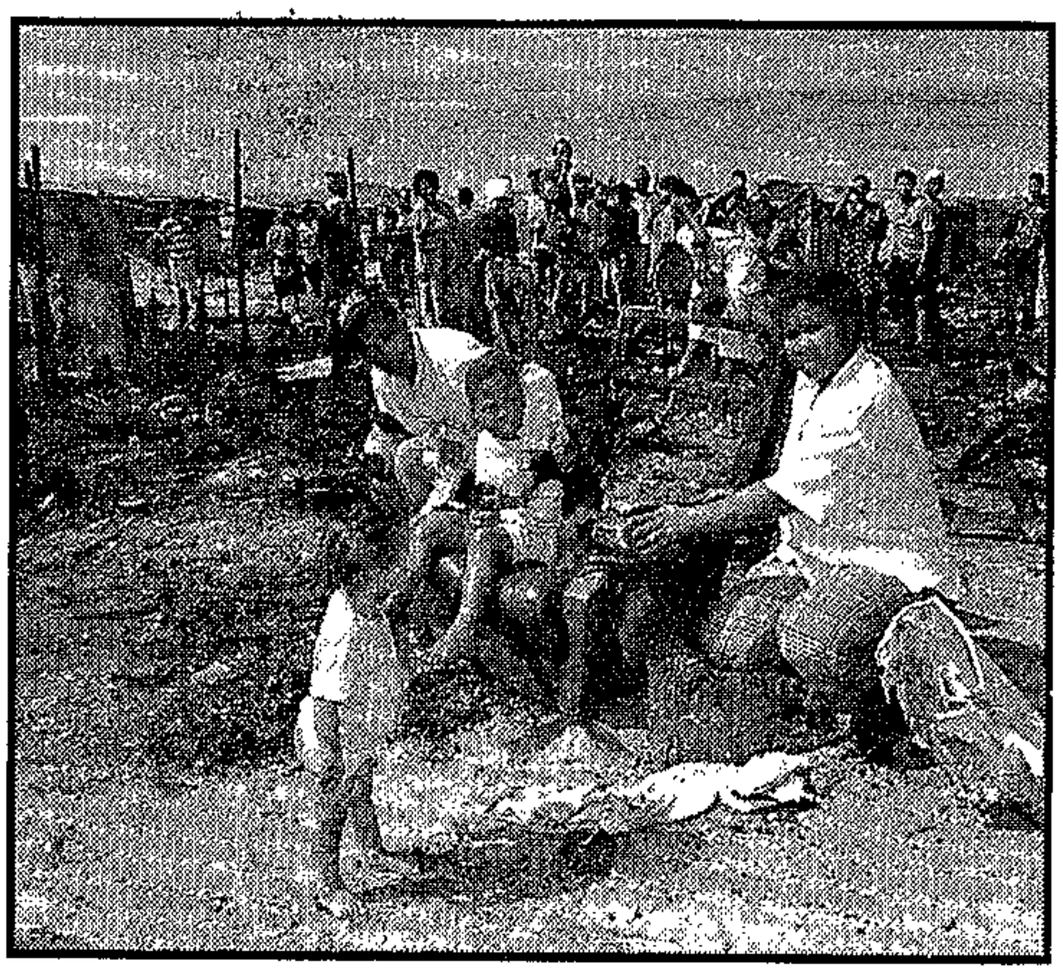
Several men tried unsuccessfully to save some of their belongings. Nobody was injured.

Firemen in three tenders from Milnerton Fire and Rescue Services and one from Cape Town put out the fire.

About 1.30am yesterday a second fire — fanned by a strong wind — swept through 21 shacks, seriously injuring Christopher Sisu, 28, who was trying to salvage his possessions.

Mr Sisu returned home from visiting a friend to see his shack on fire. He was told his wife and children had been evacuated and he rushed inside to save what he could.

Several men shouted to Mr Sisu to come out of the burning shack and minutes later they rescued him. He was taken to Tygerberg Hospital in a serious condition.



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

SHACK FIRE: Families try to salvage belongings from their destroyed shacks at Marconi Beam, near Milnerton, while Sipho Nginasa, Belinda Speerman and little Nandipha Speerman salvage a chair.

Milnerton fire chief Bob Farrant said the cause of the second blaze had not yet been established, but police were investigating.

Siphwe Matu, of the Marconi Beam Development Forum, said it appeared as if the second fire was caused by a candle left burning in a shack.

The blaze left about 35 families destitute.

Mrs Mahlentle said 76 shacks were destroyed in the two fires.

Upset residents blamed neighbours, saying some people were negligent when making small fires and using gas stoves to cook.

Frans Petersen, 39, who helped rebuild friends' shacks said: "Some people do not blow out candles at night before going to sleep.

"Others wander off to neighbours, leaving gas stoves on and doors open. The wind usually blows very hard here and a fire begins easily."

The deputy principal of the camp's community school, Wellington Nopoto, said: "Many get carried away when making outside fires to cook meals or braai meat, and make the fire too big.

"Then they lose control over it, especially if the wind is blowing. Others leave fires burning after meals."

Mrs Mahlentle said: "We are thankful for Milnerton's fire department, who arrived on the scene in minutes yesterday and extinguished the fire.

"At 9.30am the firemen came back with milk and bread. At 1.30pm members of the municipality arrived with blankets and to them we are also very grateful."

The Milnerton Civil Protection unit joined forces with the Marconi Beam Civic Committee and the Red Cross to distribute emergency food parcels and blankets.

Squatters will be urged to vote ANC

□ Western Cape leaders repudiate provincial legislature candidatures for PAC

POLITICS

VUYO BAVUMA
Political Staff

WESTERN Cape squatter leaders have promised to persuade 230 000 squatters to vote for the African National Congress in what they describe as an effort to improve squatter lifestyles.

And two leaders, Jeffrey Nongwe, the former Crossroads chairman, and Jerry Tutu, of Macassar, repudiated their provincial legislature candidatures for the Pan Africanist Congress and declared their full support for the ANC. Mr Nongwe was number 32 on the list while Mr Tutu was number 22.

At a Press conference in KTC yesterday, Gladstone Ntamo of KTC said the decision to organise squatters for the ANC was taken because there was confusion among people about what role to play in the election. He said it was clear that the ANC's policies would adequately cater for the squatters.

Leaders represented at yesterday's meeting included Enoch Madywabe of Brown's Farm with an estimated 30 000 voters; Macassar Village Five with 60 000 and Noko de Villiers from Mpetha and Mpinga Square camps with 8 000.

Mr Ntamo said the leaders came from various organisations such as the Western Cape United Squatters Association and civic bodies, but would unite for the sole purpose of organising votes for the ANC.

On April 24 the coalition would organise a rally to be addressed by Transkei strongman Bantu Holomisa.

The leaders would try to persuade Mali Hoza, the former Khayelitsha mayor, and Johnson Ngxobongwana of Driftsand to leave the National Party, which was "the nest of the enemy".

The two men are candidates on the National Party provincial list.

Mr Ntamo said: "When our people vote we wish to ask them to remember who destroyed Nyanga Bush, Portland Cement and KTC during the witdoek wars.

"They should remember who killed our people. They should also remember who detained our leaders.

"The Nats are saying that the Nats are new but we don't trust them."

His views were echoed by Mr Madywabe of Brown's Farm, who said most squatters had no creches because of NP policies.

"We are tired of living in areas without site and services facilities. We don't want to live in the bushes in our land."

(News by V Bavuma, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town.)

The A

Sky high hopes in the squatter camps

ARG 26/4/94 (307)

☐ ANC will deliver the goods, say new voters

While polls predict a National Party victory in the Western Cape, no one knows the size of the squatter vote, which is expected to go to the African National Congress. There are 10 squatter camps in the Peninsula with about 1,5 million residents — most of whom are highly politicised through their experiences of apartheid. In the past three months voter education programmes have been carried out in the camps. VUYO BAVUMA of The Argus Political Staff reports.

EUNICE Qokolo of Macassar squatter camp in Khayelitsha is quite clear about who she will vote for tomorrow — the "NNC".

She may be confused about the party's initials, but she knows exactly where she's going to put her cross — by Nelson Mandela's face.

Mrs Qokolo is confident the "NNC" is the real ticket to pull her and four children out of their poverty-stricken situation.

She washes dishes while we talk and as party workers put up ANC posters on poles.

But she pays no attention and says: "I am fully prepared. I have my ID — and I know how to vote. I was taught by the comrades."

Understandably, her first priority is a "decent brick house with four or six big rooms" so she can live in peace and comfort with her family.

Like many squatters, Mrs Qokolo moved to Cape Town from Transkei in the late 1970s searching for a job. Instead, she found herself "playing cat and mouse games" with Western Cape Administration Board inspectors because she did not have the "right" documents.

But tomorrow she believes she will start a journey into the rosy and new South Africa, filled with "jobs and proper education for my children".

Her unemployed neighbour, Nokhaya Xam, is also excited about the election because her "children will get a better education".

Like Mrs Qokolo, she is ready for election day.

She applied for her ID document last month and attended several voter education classes at a local school.

As proof of her interest, two samples of ballot papers issued by the Independent Electoral Commission lie on her floor.

"Yes, I am ready and I can't wait to have a beautiful house that looks like those of whites," she said.

"You never see any whites living in such a dreadful place," she added, pointing to the ceiling of her shack, pasted with colourful paper.



VOTING FOR 'NNC': Eunice Qokolo will put her cross next to Nelson Mandela's face.

"These shacks aren't safe. If you go to the toilet and leave your pots on the stove, you may find your house burnt down."

With two ANC posters of Mr Mandela's face on her walls, it was not difficult to guess Mrs Xam's political allegiance.

"Of course, I'll vote for the ANC because I think it will able to meet our needs. Look, I can't find a job although I have been searching for a long time. But that will end now."

Lungile Mbuku, 24, knew which party he would vote for although he did not attend voter education classes.

"It's the ANC because of its actions," he said.

Smiling, Mr Mbuku refused to elaborate, saying: "The evidence is obvious for all to see."

In Site B, near the Trevor Vilakazi branch of the ANC, there were no ANC posters on the poles although the area is famous for its strong ANC support — and gang violence.

Although election fever was not evident at first, residents were looking forward to the big day.

Tembela Siko, a wheelchair-bound former taxi driver, said he viewed the election as a "tool to bury the apartheid policies so that people can live as one".

"Anyway we all have the same blood."

Like others, Mr Siko did not need any canvassing.

"I've known for a long time that when the appropriate opportunity comes, I'll vote for the ANC. It has fought for us for a long time and has never changed its stance despite severe hardship — it continued to fight to improve lives."

His wife Nokhaya Siko, a former domestic worker who was retrenched eight years ago, chimed in: "I want my children to be educated. We struggled a lot to bring them up. We also want a big house with at least eight rooms."

Doreen Loyethi, who came to the Western Cape in 1978, was equally ecstatic about the elections though she was "apolitical".

Like other squatters, she wanted to get a "posh house and a job so that I can support my children".

Unlike others, Mrs Loyethi was not prepared to divulge who would get her vote, but "I know which party will make my wish come true".

On April 30 the squatters, like many ANC supporters, will know if their choice was right.

(News by V Bavuma, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town.)

NP clan claims square

CT 18/5/94 (307)

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

NATIONAL PARTY supporters claiming to be members of the Manenberg People's Association yesterday occupied Tambo Square, a piece of land next to Jooste Hospital allocated to KTC squatters, according to the ANC's Manenberg branch.

In a joint statement last night the ANC, Manenberg Civic Association (MCA) and KTC residents who live in an area also known as Tambo Square in Guguletu, said the land was allocated by the Cape Provincial Administration in 1990 to Tambo Square residents.

Mrs Juliet Mhlanga, of Tambo Square (KTC), said they had also named the piece of land in Manenberg Tambo Square since they intend living there at some time in the future.

Five families claiming to be NP supporters "illegally" moved onto the land in Manenberg yesterday saying they could live where they liked since they had won the election, Ms Mahlanga added.

She said that the Tambo Square Residents Committee (KTC) intended obtaining a Supreme Court interdict to stop the "illegal squatters".

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She said that the Tambo Square Residents Committee (KTC) intended obtaining a Supreme Court interdict to stop the "illegal squatters".

Quit black land, squatters told

ARG 18/5/94 (307)

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

COLOURED people are moving on to land on the Guguletu/Manenberg border originally earmarked for blacks, saying they have every right to do so given the demise of apartheid.

Tambo Square, as the pocket of land has been dubbed, has already been divided into separate erven which have been officially registered in the names of would-be black owners currently squatting in KTC.

A spokeswoman for the Tambo Square Residents' Association in KTC said the illegal occupants were "wasting their time" and charges of trespassing would be laid with police today.

Two coloured families have already built shacks on the land — and supporters of the Manenberg People's Association say they plan to move at least another 20 families onto the site today.

Meanwhile, Faldiera de Vries of the Manenberg Civic Association accused the People's Association of "creating racial tension and unnecessary division".

"The very same people who petitioned against squatters on their doorstep are now moving in to squat themselves.

"Every plot — there are 650 in all — has been allocated, so it's not negotiable," she said.

Roads and underground pipes were laid in Tambo Square in 1990 with a R1 million grant from the Cape Provincial Administration.

But the land has never been occupied, the KTC residents saying they don't want to move from one shack to another and will wait for resources to build proper houses.

The spokeswoman for the Tambo Square Residents' Association said: "We don't want violence ... we are past those days ... we are in government."

But the families who have already moved in say they were warned their houses would be burned down unless they moved immediately.

Squatters spokesman Raymond Isaacs, who plans to build his shack later today, said people had to understand "we are suffering too".

"The people never developed the land, so obviously they don't want it. We are on our way to the City Council because we want to know when the land was sold and how those people got the rights to it.

"How is it possible that we people, living in Manenberg, cannot build houses here? We are quite prepared to share the land.

"They say the Guguletu border is Silverstream Road (which borders Tambo Square) but I say there are no borders in the new South Africa. I have every right to live in Guguletu," said Mr Isaacs, claiming he was a member of the ANC.

"If there is trouble we will defend ourselves, but we don't want trouble here — we want to negotiate.

"We are prepared to pay for water, electricity and housing at a reasonable price. And we will develop the area. Through self-help schemes we will build brick houses."

Supporters of his organisation had nowhere else to go, he said. Many had been evicted from backyard shacks in the small area behind Manenberg police station bordered by Sugarloaf, Tousberg, and Silverstream roads, and Hex Crescent, Mr Isaacs said.

Marranne Nero, 40, moved in with her three children yesterday. She said her family was staying in a backyard shack but were evicted by police at the weekend.

Her neighbour Somaiya Abrahams who, with her four children, was evicted from their backyard shack by her mother-in-law, said: "I will stay here.

"I am not scared. I have never had a home of my own and will make this house nice."

Valerie Marthinus, 33, was building a shack for herself today.

She said she had nowhere else to stay. "I am a needy person."



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

ALREADY IN: Marrane Nero , with baby Enrico, has already moved into Tambo Square. She has been warned to move out or her shack will be burned down.



ILLEGAL OCCUPIER . . . Miss Cathleen Koopman holds her one-year-old baby, Bonnita, in front of the shack she is erecting illegally in Manenberg, on land earmarked for black housing, but she refuses to go back to sleeping on the street.

Picture: JACK LESTRADE

Squatters must leave black housing area

CT 19/5/94 (307)

By CLAIRE BISSEKER

PROVINCIAL Housing Minister Mr Gerald Morkel will not hesitate to evict coloured families squatting on vacant land on the border of Manenberg and Guguletu which has been earmarked for black occupation.

Mr Morkel said: "My policy has always been very clear. Under no circumstances will I allow people who are not lawfully entitled to land to move there, no matter what their race or political affiliation."

A spokesman for the proposed residents of the area known as Tambo Square said their lawyers had given the Cape Provincial Administration until 10am today to evict the occupiers, failing which they would seek an urgent interdict in the Supreme Court.

The three destitute families, who began erecting shacks on the plot bordering Silverstream Road in Manenberg last week, braced themselves for a fearful night yesterday following threats that their shacks would be burnt down if not removed.

The Manenberg ANC and Civic Association support the 650 Tambo Square residents who each payed R750 for their unserviced plots in 1990 and are planning to erect houses.

Major dispute erupts over plots of land in flats buffer zone

AIUT 19/5/94

☐ Wounds of apartheid continue to fester

(~~134~~) (307) (~~350~~)

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

APARTHEID has come and gone but the wounds of the policy, not least the Group Areas Act, continue to fester.

About 650 plots in Tambo Square — a previously unoccupied buffer zone between (black) Guguletu and (coloured) Manenberg — were awarded to members of the Tambo Square Civic Association, who are squatting in KTC, by the Cape Provincial Administration in 1990 after a protracted struggle.

Another 265 plots were never allocated.

The civic association lodged a deposit with a major construction company for houses to be built on the 650 plots but the parties have been bickering over terms ever since.

In the meantime, sites with plot numbers were allocated to KTC families. Streets, street lights and sewerage pipes were installed but nobody moved on to the land.

Until this week, that is, when residents of backyard shacks across the road in Manenberg began occupying the sites.

"They say the Guguletu border is Silverstream Road (which borders Tambo Square) but I say there are no borders in the new South Africa. I have every right to live in Guguletu," squatter spokesman Raymond Isaacs said yesterday.

Two shacks were completed — and their coloured "owners" installed — on Monday before the KTC families realised what was happening.

Yesterday supporters of the Manenberg People's Association geared themselves to build another 50 shacks. Meanwhile, the "rightful owners" converged on Tambo Square to reclaim their land.

The Manenberg would-be squatters and the KTC families are pinning their hopes for a solution on a meeting of all concerned on Monday.

Accusing the people's association of being a National Party front, chairman of the Tambo Square Civic Association Themba Beja said: "This is no time to fight. It is a time for talking and helping one another."

Mr Beja accused the Manenberg police of siding with the squatters in spite of alleged assurances that the land would be cleared of squatters by yesterday.

Nelson Mabija of the Tambo Square Housing Committee — which is affiliated to South African National Civics Organisation — spent most of yesterday with lawyers.

He said 650 plots had been allocated and their future was non-negotiable. Manenberg squatters were welcome to negotiate with the CPA for the other 265 plots.

"We are prepared to advise them on how to conduct the negotiations. We have no problem with them as long as they stay off our 650 plots. We have already laid charges of trespassing against the two (families) who have moved in."

A lawyer said he and his clients were eager to avoid racial tension, but it was up to the provincial government to "do their work and remove those people".

Ismael Simpson of the Manenberg People's Association said supporters of his organisation had fought for the right to settle at Tambo Square since 1984 when they called themselves the Manenberg Muslim Society.

The fact that he was a National Party member had nothing to do with the issue as his supporters included ANC members, Mr Simpson said.

His supporters were prepared to negotiate for the 265 unallocated plots but in the meantime would move in anyway. They would be prepared to move to other plots after the conclusion of negotiations.

Meanwhile, would-be squatters busied themselves with marking out "their" turf and digging foundations.

But Mr Beja said that moving in before negotiating was "provocative" and would not be tolerated.

"We know these people need housing but they are fighting in the wrong direction.

"Through our lawyers we are seeking our deeds of ownership and will then pursue eviction orders. Then the police will be forced to act."

Housing body welcomes squatters announcement

ARG 20/5/94 (307)

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE KTC-based Tambo Square Housing Forum has welcomed the announcement that Manenberg families squatting on land on the Manenberg/Guguletu border are prepared to move.

A spokeswoman for the Cape Provincial Administration said today that the three squatting families had agreed to move as soon as they were provided with alternative accommodation.

About 650 sites were allocated by the CPA to the forum in 1990 after a lengthy struggle. A further 265 sites were never allocated. This week backyard shack dwellers from Manenberg started moving on to plots allocated to the forum.

Their move was rejected by the ANC and Manenberg Civic Association who said that, in spite of the acute housing shortage, the principle of not occupying land allocated to others had to apply.

The CPA spokeswoman said the Urban Development department was urgently seeking alternative accommodation for the families today. They would be provided with housing "of a similar standard to what they used to have".

The department was emphatic that illegal occupations would not be tolerated, the spokeswoman said.

News of the agreement between the CPA and the squatters took the Tambo Square Housing Forum by surprise today.

Their spokeswoman said they were see what was happening before seeing lawyers later today. Charges of trespassing were laid with police on Tuesday.

"We will be very happy if they move. But we don't say they have to go away. They can use the other 265 plots as long as they are not disturbing us in our area."

The forum intended to speed up stalled negotiations with their building contractor in the light of the occupations "because we see that if we carry on delaying we could lose that field".

Faldiera de Vries of the Manenberg Civic Association said the would-be squatters could not be blamed for their actions as many had been waiting for housing for more than 10 years.

"It's through no fault of their own that they find themselves in the position they're in.

"The National Housing Board needs to seriously address the housing issue. This is definitely not going to be the last incident of this nature."

Ms De Vries suggested that squatters occupy vacant land in Manenberg rather than resort to grabbing already-allocated land.

Manenberg squatters to leave square

CT 20/5/94 307

Staff Reporter

COLOURED families squatting illegally on Tambo Square, a pocket of land in Manenberg earmarked for black occupation, agreed yesterday to vacate their shacks which will be taken down with the help of the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) today.

A CPA spokeswoman said two of the three families had agreed to leave voluntarily yesterday following the intervention of provincial housing minister Mr Gerald Morkel, who said he would not hesitate to evict the illegal occupants.

The Manenberg ANC and Civic Association threatened to take legal action earlier this week if the squatters were not removed from the area which was allocated to 650 squatters in neighbouring Guguletu in 1990.

The legal tenants have not yet moved across as they are still raising funds for the construction of brick houses on the site which borders Silverstream Road.

The CPA said they were "sympathetic" towards the three destitute families who occupied the land on their own initiative after being evicted from backyard dwellings last week.

The spokeswoman said the CPA had offered to help the families find rented accommodation similar to what they had lost, but were emphatic that no further illegal settlement would be allowed on the land.

Squatters leave Tambo Square

(307) CT 23/5/94

Staff Reporter

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Problems

The CPA said they were "sympathetic" towards the three destitute families who occupied the land on their own initiative after being evicted from backyard dwellings last week.

Owner of the Rylands bushland, Mr Kanthi Patel, said last night he was forced to evict the squatters after five or six years of "endless problems" came to a head last Sunday when a property owner chased burglars into the bush, and was attacked by them.

Mr Patel, a property developer, said there had been numerous confrontations between the squatters and the community of Rylands, who believed he was harbouring them.

Squatters ordered off land

CAPE TOWN — Anarchy would result if the courts approved anyone getting lasting rights by simply occupying land, a Cape Town judge said on Monday when ordering squatters off municipal land.

Judge R M Marais said this in a judgment granting the Vredenburg-Saldanha municipality the go-ahead to evict about 50 families from council-owned land near the Louwville township.

He added, however, that illegal residents were to be evicted only where the municipality implemented its offer to help the squatters move an alternative site organised for them a few kilometres away.

The occupied land has been proclaimed for formal housing.

The municipality launched its application against the squatters on March 21 after ordering about 101 families off the land by Decemer 31 1993.

This had followed a series of meetings between the parties, with the municipality maintaining that it had done its best to avoid a forced removal.

The squatters, in turn, had refused to move to the other site unless the municipality built them houses there.

The judge said the "political rhetoric" in the squatters' application was understandable, given their sense of political impotence during long negotiations on their tenure of the land.

"Regrettably, there are a great number of poor and homeless people in SA. They deserve to be treated with sympathy and compassion, and assisted to the greatest extent that fiscal and other constraints will reasonably allow.

"(But) even the most humane and caring of societies cannot reasonably be expected to tolerate the anarchy which would be the likely result if the courts were to declare it to be possible (aside from acquisitive prescription) for anyone to acquire lasting rights to the land of another by the simple expedient of occupying it and refusing to leave. It would be entirely contrary to the common law of the land."

Marais reserved judgment on the costs of the March 31 hearing. — Sapa.

SQUATTERS EVICTED FROM 'BOUGHT' LAND

Southeaster (Suppl. to South)
2715 — 31/5/94

BY SABATA NGCAI

MANENBERG squatters who occupied land reserved for Guguletu residents last week agreed to leave after they were threatened with eviction.

Three families built shacks on land allocated for Tambo Square residents.

They voluntarily left after the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) threatened to evict them.

The Manenberg People's Association, Tambo Square Housing Committee, Ikapa Town Council and the CPA will meet this week to negotiate land for the squatters.

The serviced land has been vacant for three years, but Tambo Square residents have already paid deposits of R1 500 for plots and foundations have been laid for houses.

Last week about 50 Tambo Square residents marched to the area to see what was happening on their land.

While a few Manenberg residents tried to provoke marchers, they remained peaceful.

"This march is peaceful, we are not here to fight but to see for ourselves what is happening," one of them said.

(307)

Manenberg resident Mrs L Marinus shouted at them, saying "black people" should not "discriminate against coloured people".

She said the land was for everyone and called on all people to live together in peace and harmony.

"Mandela said people should mix together," Mrs Marinus said. "There is no black and white heaven, God created all people, both black and white."

Manenberg ANC member Mr Armien Arrison explained that Tambo Square residents had paid deposits for the land.

He said the land was not meant for one racial group, but it was meant for all people.

"People should follow the correct procedure of getting to the area," he said.



KEEP IT CALM: Manenberg ANC member Armien Arrison, right, cools down heated tempers at a march in the area last week *Photo: Roger Sedres*

The squatters who occupied the land complained they had been evicted from backyard shacks in Manenberg.

Mrs Marrianne Nero said she was forced to erect her shack after she was evicted by her landlord because her children were playing in his yard.

June 3 to June 7 1994

RYLANDS SQUATTERS ARE GIVEN MORE TIME

Southeaster
(Suppl to South) 316 - 71694

BY SABATA NGCAI

SQUATTERS in Rylands bushes near Jane Road, whose homes were demolished two weeks ago, have been given extra time to live in the area.

Bushland owner Mr Kanthi Patel has agreed to give the squatters more time to stay, said Manenberg People's Association spokesperson Mr Ismail Sampson.

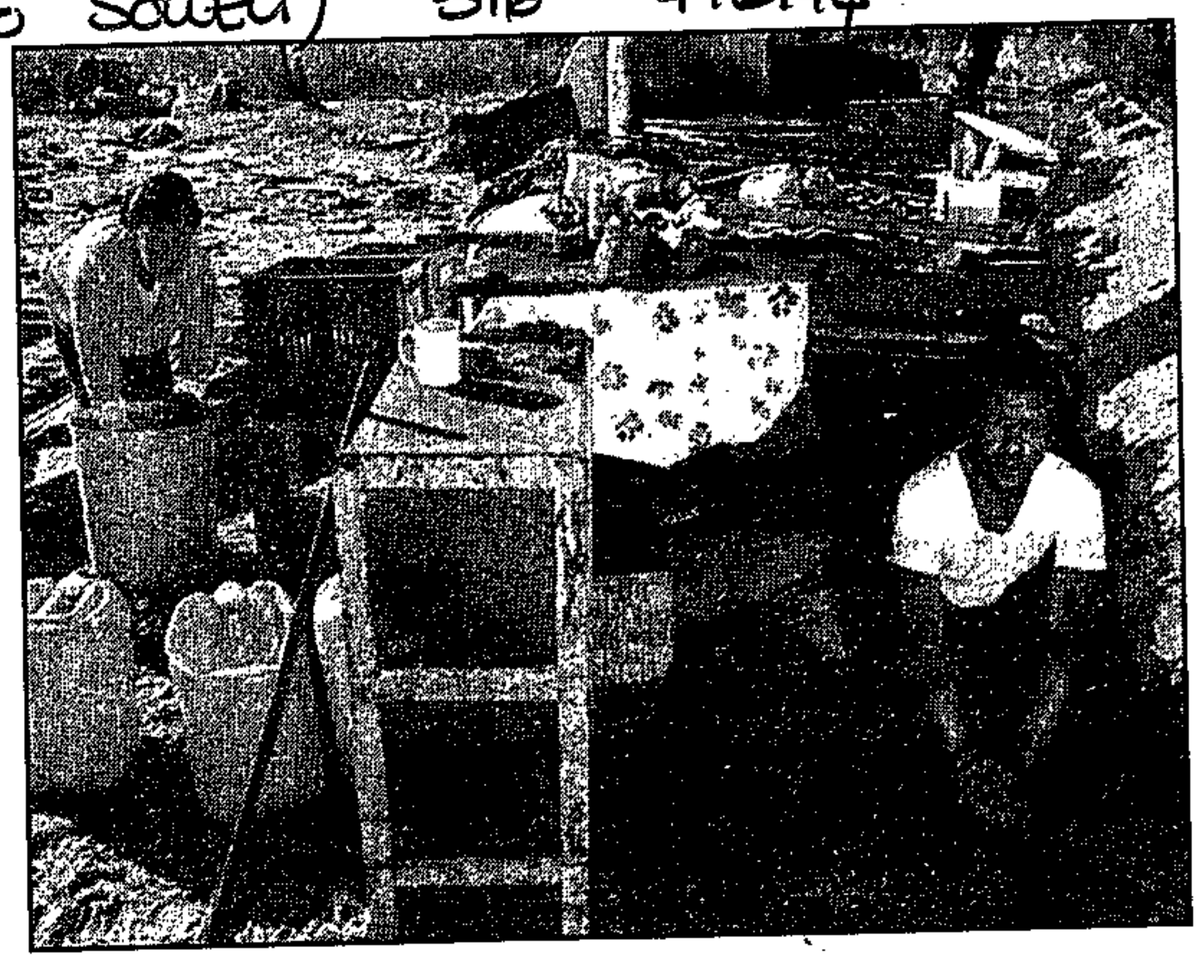
Mr Sampson negotiated with Mr Patel, who earlier ordered the squatters to leave the area, to give him time to meet the minister of housing, Mr Gerald Morkel, about the problem.

The meeting will be held on Monday next week.

SOUTHEASTER has been unable to reach Mr Patel for comment despite repeated attempts over the past two weeks.

Some squatters found their shacks demolished when they returned from work two weeks ago.

They had been warned long ago to leave the area, known as Koek Se Bos.



IN THE COLD: Henry Mohamed's flimsy shelter

The residents, who have been living there for 12 years, were accused of assaulting and robbing residents of Rylands (307)

They said they did not know where else to go and build temporary structures until their future was decided.

Mr Henry Mohamed and his wife Elizabeth have slept under a shelter made of planks and corrugated iron for two weeks.

They have to kneel to get into the low structure.

Mr Mohamed was forced to demolish his shack on instructions from Mr Patel.

"We have put our belongings together so that we can go when we get assistance," Mr Mohamed said.

Mr Michael Boers also tore down the remains of his shack.

He found most of it demolished when he came home from work two weeks ago.

R40-m allocated for upliftment of squatter areas

Municipal Reporter (307) ARG 8/6/94

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council has already committed R40 million to a project aimed at providing serviced land for residential development in squatter areas.

In a statement, the RSC said it was one of many participants in the Serviced Land Project, set up three years ago.

The project's newsletter recently stated that "work of huge proportions" was being done to improve the quality of life of thousands of hostel dwellers and landless people living in shacks in the Langa, KTC, Nyanga, Crossroads, Philippi and Driftsands areas.

An estimated 56 000 households were involved.

Completed projects financed by the RSC included:

- The provision of services — including roads, sewage and stormwater drainage, footways, water and street lights — to 423 erven in Miller's Camp in Nyanga at a cost of R4,6 million;
- The tarring of 6,1 km of roads, plus kerbs, and the gravelling of footways and stormwater drainage — in phase one of the Old Crossroads rejuvenation — at a cost of R1,6 million; and
- The provision of external bulk services, including water supply, sewage and stormwater drainage, to Philippi East at a cost of R2,6 million.

Planning for services to 350 erven in the N2 buffer area at a cost of R4 million was still in progress.

The project to service 1 500 erven in Old Crossroads (phase three) had not yet begun.

The electrification of Old Crossroads (phase one), at a cost of R3,9 million, which provides power to 1 200 erven, is nearly finished.

SQUATTERS CAN 'BUY' SHACKS

Government housing subsidy scheme will also help people in informal settlements

BY SABATA NGCAI

SQUATTERS can now "own" their shacks, regional housing officials have announced, after deciding how to spend the government's R12 500 per family subsidy scheme in informal settlements.

The residents will be able to buy serviced sites for "approved shacks". A spokesperson for the housing ministry, Mr Sam Dodgen, said "wood and iron shacks were the only approved structures".

"This doesn't mean we encourage people to live in shacks," he said.

The total cost of the serviced land and the structures would not exceed R12 500 per household.

At the moment serviced sites are only available for rental. The new scheme allows for ownership.

A spokesperson for the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) said proposals for a rental scheme were still to be drafted by the Department of National Housing and the National Housing Forum.

The subsidy has been divided into three categories:

- The maximum amount is R12 500 for people who earn up to R1 500 a month.
- The subsidy for people earning between R1 501 and R2 500 a month is R9 500.
- For those earning between R2 501 and R3 500 a month the subsidy will be R5 000.

Initially the government wanted to build about 20 000 houses on serviced sites. The fact that funds have not been allocated and the strict prerequisites will reduce the number of houses which can be built.

This is made worse by the fact that the Department of National Housing and National Housing Forum have not yet decided how supplementary subsidies will be handled.

Hostel takeover halted

ABOUT 20 squatters from Guguletu have been prevented by the police from occupying the Somafa hostels of the Peninsula Technikon in the township.

The hostels were vacated by students who went on holiday this month.

Hostel supervisor Mr Mandla Mathungana said it was the third time occupation of the hostels had been attempted by squatters.

Security guard Mr Templeton Fikelephi said that earlier this year students and squatters had almost come to blows when an attempt was made to occupy the hostel.

"The students are taking their June holidays. The building is empty. We see it fitting that we stay here," one of the homeless people said.

Other squatters said they believed students would not be returning to the hostel when classes resumed.

ET 17/6/94

Police were called in and stopped the occupation. — Sapa

(307)

The new South Africa has rung in some changes in the once-divided suburb of Tafelsig.

ADELLE HORLER
Weekend Argus Reporter

AFTER the eviction row earlier this year, the Mitchell's Plain suburb of Tafelsig is now an example of how two once-hostile communities can live together in peace.

But a scratch beneath the smoothe surface reveals a tangled tale of complaints, boycotts and misunderstandings between the city council and both groups of residents — legal tenants and squatters who were evicted after occupying houses.

Tafelsig hit the headlines early this year when the illegal occupants of 276 empty council houses were evicted and moved nearby to the proposed site of a school.

The story of their illegal occupation inflamed racial emotions before the election and is thought to have gained coloured support for the National Party.

Today the rightful tenants have taken possession of their houses and the former squatters have settled into their wood and corrugated iron shacks.

Children and dogs play in the streets, neighbours chat over fences, but while the city council says everybody has settled in, both the legal tenants and former squatters are dissatisfied.

"The council is not responding to the real needs of the people," said Khaya Maseko of the Tafelsig Action Committee (TAC) which represents the squatters.

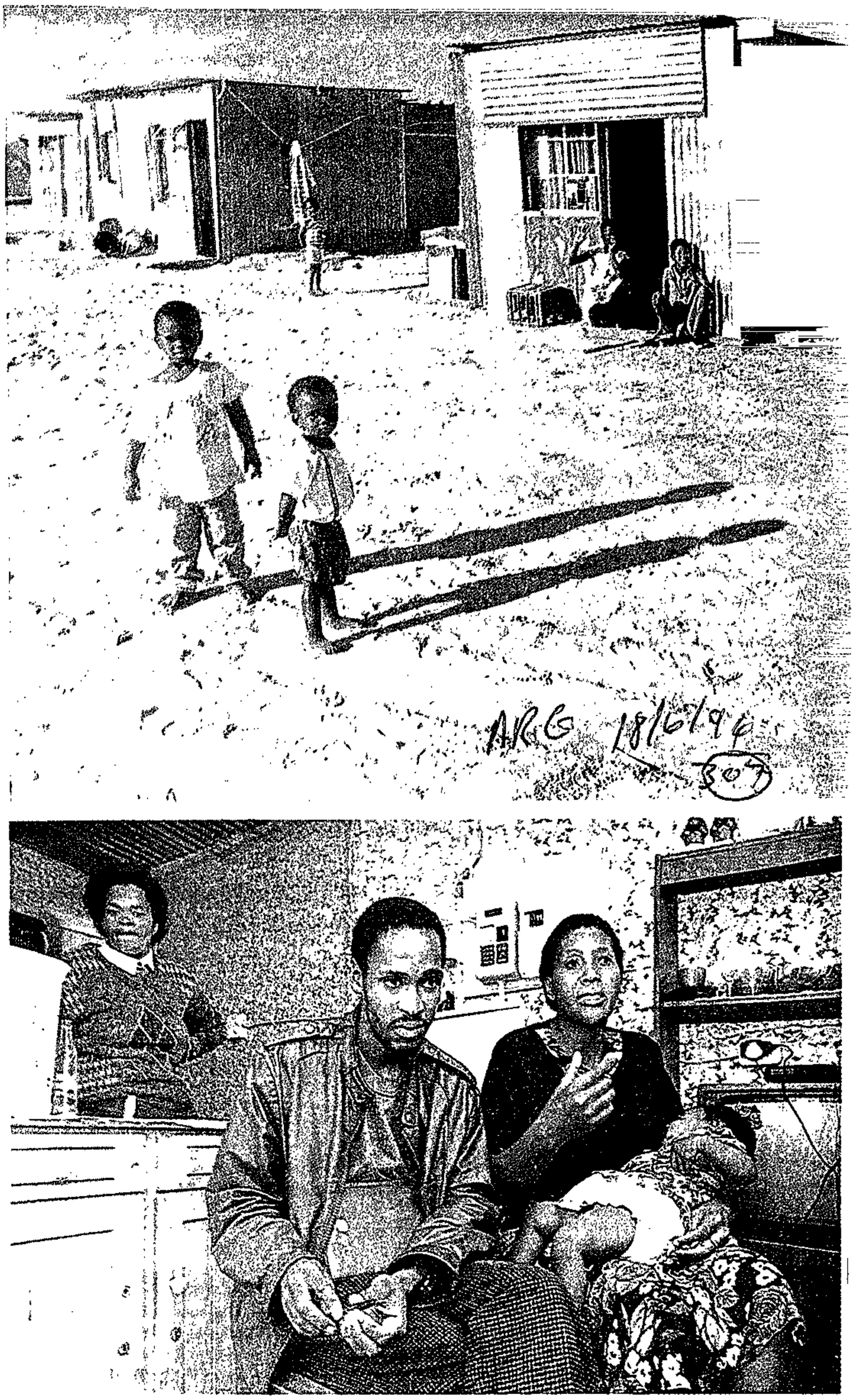
"There are no clinics, no schools and no churches. When we complained about the taps and roads, the council replied with a R25 service charge for the water and toilets."

The school site is equipped with basic services: one toilet for every seven plots and one water pipe for 20 plots.

But, the council says, the squatters agreed to the R25 service charge before the evictions.

"That charge was part of a memo of agreement that was drawn up in December and signed by the council, the illegal tenants, the existing tenants and representatives of the peace committee," said Hans Smit, director of the council's Project Management Services.

"We can show that the council has most certainly met every promise set down in terms of the agreement. We have met all parts of the deal and in fact gone further.



□ **COMPLAINTS:** Members of the Tafelsig Action Committee, from left, Mandisa Dlanjwa, Khaya Maseko and Yvonne Lungcuzo, represent the 276 families who have settled in shacks close to the council houses they occupied last October. They are fighting to upgrade their site.

"There is street lighting and all structures have access to electricity in a subsidised, prepaid meter system."

TAC member Yvonne Lungcuzo countered: "We don't mind paying the R25, but lots of people from other areas pass this way and use our toilets and water. Is it fair that we pay for them as well?

"With so many people using one toilet, our health is being affected.

"The water is also far away and the taps are the kind you must keep pushing, you can't just turn them on. So in bad weather you must stand there pushing in the rain. And this morning the water was brown. How clean is it?

"There is not even a public phone. If you need to make a phonecall, you must catch a taxi into Mitchell's Plain."

The legal tenants of the council houses echoed the call for more facilities.

"They gave me a post box, but what for?" asked Andries Mondsinger, chairman of the Area L Residents' Association.

"They don't deliver here. If I want my letters I must spend R2,40 on a taxi into town and back.

"Anything we need, like a hospital or the police, we must pay to go there. We at least need a mobile police station and a mobile clinic for the children. The facilities must come nearer to the people."

The existing amenities, however, are seemingly not being paid for.

Several legal tenants have yet to pay the deposits on their houses and many are not paying their so-called "rent" or bond instalments.

And some residents benefitted from the illegal occupa-

Housing problem unites

(307) ARG 18/6/94

...tors of the bond instal-



□ **SANDY SITE:** Mandisa Dlanjwa outside some of the corrugated-iron shacks that house squatters evicted from council houses in Tafelsig. The site has one toilet for every seven plots and a tap for every 20 families.

Pictures: DOUG PITHEY
Weekend Argus

ARG 18/06/94 307



□ **TOILET TREK:** Thelma Mdlalo, a 62-year-old pensioner, has to walk about 50 metres from her shack, visible in the background, to the single toilet she shares with six other families.

tion of their homes.

"Before the squatters came you had to pay a deposit before you could move in, but then the council woke up and started putting people in before they had paid their deposits, just so that they wouldn't be occupied again," said Mr Mondsinger.

Another problem for the legal tenants is that the bond instalments are too high — up to a third of their gross monthly incomes.

Mr Mondsinger, whose house is called "Hou Moed", is one of the many people who are fighting back by refusing to pay.

"Many people can't afford the rent for the houses. The council or the government must reduce the rent for those who can't manage it. We should have a rent that is reasonable," he said.

"We feel we're getting a raw deal. In Lentegeur they pay less for a three-bedroomed house when ours are two- or one-bedroomed."

The council, on the other hand, says all tenants knew what the costs would be before they moved in.

"We are not unsympathetic to the problem, but each applicant had an individual interview, before they were put into a house. We told them of the bond instalments, maintenance and rates," said Neil Ross, chairman of the housing committee.

"If the costs were too high, they should have said: 'No, I can't afford to live there'. But it is understandable; because of the housing shortage people tend to ignore the financial side. If you're desperate, you go in with blinkers."

According to Mr Ross, the parameters of ments were determined by the state, which is in the process of changing its policy. Depending on the date of occupation, some rates may change.

The legal tenants questioned the issue of arrears.

"These are repossessed houses. Why must we pay for a house when other people have lived here already? They stayed here for five months without paying a cent to the council," said Mr Mondsinger.

"We want the council to take off the arrears because of the people who stayed here rent-free. It's happened in other areas, why not here?"

The council does not have the power to write off arears.

"The question of how the state is going to handle rental arrears is still to be negotiated. No national decisions have yet been made," said Mr Ross.

Housing policy indecision at national level is also affecting the school site tenants.

There is a misunderstanding between the former squatters and the council over the details of the housing policy subsidy scheme in terms of which up to R12 500 a structure will be allocated to upgrade the site.

This is a one-off subsidy that does not have to be repaid, although tenants will have to pay rates and municipal charges.

"The exact nature of the upgrade is still to be negotiated, but it will probably cover services like water, roads and a sewage connection for everyone, and 'top structures', meaning actual housing assistance," said Mr Smit.

"Unfortunately the new policy has major problems and it cannot be implemented until they've been sorted out. We're ready to go, but we can't do anything until the policy gaps are worked out."

The former squatters are not impressed.

"This new policy doesn't address our needs," said TAC's Mandisa Dlanjwa.

"They're going to deduct from the R12 500 money for the land and sewage facilities so we'll own the land, but we don't want to be landowners, we want homes. We want to use the money to build decent structures."

It is unclear whether the council and former squatters have adequately discussed the details of the new policy.

According to the council, the policy has been explained at public and private meetings and staff have had two meetings with school site residents in the last week, but the TAC says there have been no formal meetings with the council since the election.

One issue though, where the council, the legal tenants and the former squatters all agree, is that the once-hostile groups of residents bear no grudges towards each other.

"We've got no complaints," said the TAC's Ms Dlanjwa.

South 24/28/6/94

307

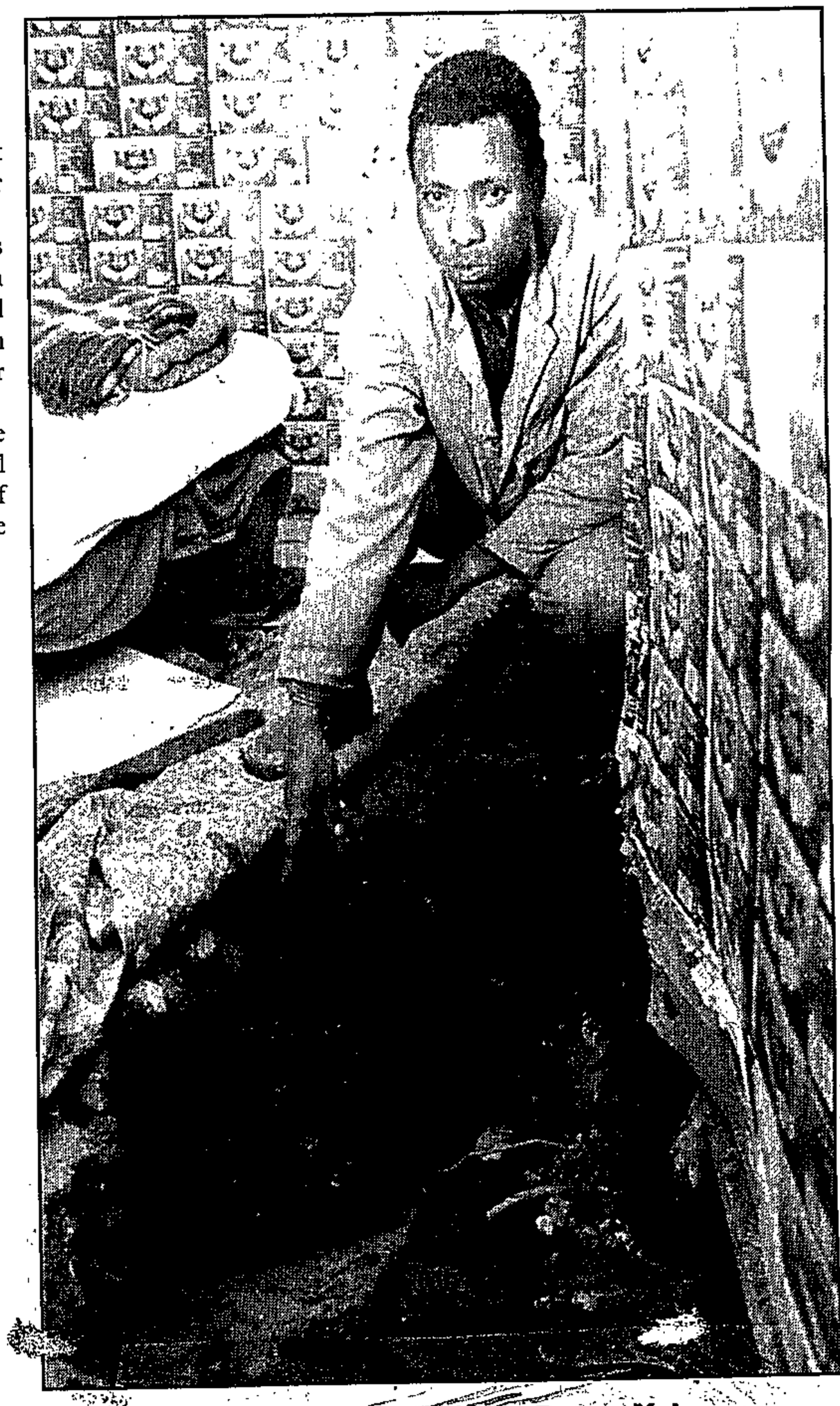


AFTER DINNER: South reporter, Quentin Wilson (centre) with his hosts

hardships caused by the recent rains, there is also hope that their lives will improve.

Outside, Zionist church members are singing their prayers, calling on God to protect them from the wind and the rains while giving them strength to continue with their struggle for a better life.

At 9pm, to the sound of the singing outside and the occasional rattling of the corrugated iron roof in the wind, we settle down for the night.



FLOODED SHACK: Squatter resident Doctor Xubuzana removes sand and water from his flooded shack

My night in a squatter camp

South 24-28/6/94 (307)

By Quentin Wilson

A ROOSTER'S call breaks through the morning darkness. It is close to five o'clock and the residents of Imizamu Yethu (Our Struggle) squatter camp in Hout Bay brace themselves for another Cape winter's day.

Mrs Nomthunzi Gonya lights her paraffin stove to boil some water, the cogent smell of gas overpowers her one-roomed shack. Her husband, Mr Luvuyo Gonya, rolls over in his double bed, and continues to snooze while she prepares for work.

He can afford to. His 12-hour shift as a local petrol attendant only begins at 7pm. But Mrs Gonya starts at 8am as a domestic worker in Camps Bay.

After washing herself with water from a plastic basin, she slips into her clothes and heads off into the chilly darkness. Because there is no public transport to Camps Bay, she starts walking the 30km and tries to hitch a lift from passing motorists.

The Gonyas, who are in their early 30s, are just one of the more than two million squatter families in South Africa.

After spending a night as a guest in the Gonya household, a stark picture of courage, pride, dignity and hard work emerged from a cesspool of squatter poverty.

On arriving at the camp on Wednesday afternoon, I saw residents frantically clearing up the wreckage caused by a week of torrential rain and wind which left shacks flooded and roads torn up.

During a break in the harsh weather, children grabbed the chance to play in the muddy streets while mothers hung up their washing and fathers repaired leaks and put up sand walls to protect their homes from further flooding.

Mr Gonya leads me to his wooden shack and introduces me to his soft-spoken wife. Their home consists of one room. A neatly made double-bed occupies almost half of their living space while a small cane table and three plastic chairs take up the other half. The room combines as kitchen, lounge and bedroom.

A poster of President Nelson Mandela adorns the damp paper wall and marching MK soldiers are pictured alongside.

Mrs Gonya welcomes me into her home immediately, but is concerned where I will sleep. She insists I take the bed while they take the floor.

"You can't sleep on the floor. You are our guest," she insists, and is clearly upset when I refuse and place my blanket on the floor.

Although the weather has been foul, Mrs Gonya has managed to keep the bed linen dry. It has been freshly cleaned and pressed, along with her and her husband's wardrobe of clothes.

Mrs Gonya prepares a delicious supper of bberewors, vetkoek and fried vegetables on a paraffin stove.

Mr Gonya talks about their life since moving to Hout Bay from King Williams Town four years ago. "We had to leave our three children with Nomthunzi's mother because this would be no life for them. It is difficult being away from them. We see them once a year but we phone them twice a month."

While we talk, neighbours continually pop in. Small children, many suffering from colds, wander in and out as if it was their home as well. At one stage, I count nine people inside the tiny shack at the same time.

While the group talks about the



FLOOD-RAVAGED ... KTC squatters and community workers conduct candlelight interviews to establish what emergency relief supplies flood-ravaged residents need. They were photographed in the KTC Community Centre, where more than 1 000 squatters have been waiting since Monday for blankets and emergency supplies. Picture: JACK LESTRADE

Squatters wait for flood relief

2/6/94 (307)

Staff Reporter

MORE than 1 000 desperate KTC squatters are flooded out of their fragile shack homes and have been holed up in their community centre for two days, waiting for blankets and emergency relief supplies.

Meanwhile, electricity consumption reached an all-time high on Monday night with the city consuming 851 MW in the half-hour to 8.30pm.

The City Council's electricity branch also reported parts of Grassy Park, Steenberg and Sun Valley were without electricity for 45 minutes at lunchtime yesterday because of a fault.

The Du Toitskloof Pass, the Tunnel and Chapman's Peak Drive have been closed until further notice due to flood damage.

Among the squatters at the community centre yesterday were barefoot children and a woman wearing rubber slipslops. She said she was saving her shoes from ruin.

Several others said all their possessions were already sopping wet and their children were getting very sick.

The SA National Civics Association has appealed to people for food, clothing, blankets and plastic sheeting to waterproof their shacks.

● The last of the cold fronts has passed and despite showers, it is expected to be slightly warmer today with occasional sunny patches. Temperatures tomorrow will peak at 17°C.

'Illegals' to be asked to leave

Municipal Reporter

PEOPLE illegally occupying government houses in Scottsdene, near Kraaifontein, will be asked to evacuate the properties, says the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

Chief executive officer Daan van den Berg said the illegal occupations were causing "serious problems".

The houses were built with state funds and were allocated to people according to a waiting list. (307)

Several meetings had been held with the occupants to address the issue.

"At the last meeting it was decided that all residents living in houses funded by the state and managed by the RSC would be asked in writing to co-operate," Mr Van den Berg said. ARGUS 7/94

'Illegal' Ovambo squatters held in Hout Bay

307

JENNY VIALL
and JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Staff Reporters ARG 7/7/94

POLICE arrested 53 Ovambos living in Hout Bay's Imizamo Yethu squatter camp after vicious faction fighting left three people injured.

The immigrants, who are allegedly illegal, face deportation to Namibia after tensions in the camp developed into a fight in which a man was shot with a bow-and-arrow and others were stoned.

A group of 100 Ovambo squatters and another of 100 Xhosas, armed with knobkerries, sticks and pangas, marched to the police station yesterday to ask Hout Bay community policing officer Kobus Beukes to resolve the conflict.

Sergeant Beukes said tensions had run high earlier this week because Xhosa squatters wanted Ovambo immigrants to leave the area as they filled jobs in the Hout Bay fishing industry which the Xhosas wanted.

The Xhosa delegation agreed to leave the police station after Home Affairs officials were called.

The officials interviewed the Namibians at the police station to determine who in the group were illegal immigrants.

Those who were allegedly illegal were then arrested.

Sergeant Beukes, who has been liaising with squatter groups in Hout Bay since February, said relations between the groups had been strained "for a while".

Initiative on Vrygrond settlement

Municipal Reporter

THE development of the Vrygrond informal housing settlement in Muizenberg East is on the cards with the council's housing committee agreeing in principle to upgrade the area.

A final decision will have to be ratified by the city council.

About 500 families live on the 52 hectares bounded by Drury Road and Prince George's Drive.

The city planner's department has embarked on a new initiative to work with all the stakeholders, including community representatives. A forum will be set up to facilitate the development.

The Vrygrond community will be drawn into the process. Housing and related services will be provided.

Committee chairman Neil Ross said the provision and funding of bulk services had to be addressed, and the boundary of the area to be developed had to be fixed.

The committee agreed, in principle, that the executive committee mandate the city planner's department to negotiate with the community on the proposed development forum.

The objectives would be to fix the boundaries of the redevelopment with the area now known as Vrygrond, and to plan for the upgrading and development of the area.

on the edge — a massive challenge

ARG 9/7/94

307

■ The 140 000 people living on the edge in greater Cape Town's squatter camps remain a big challenge for the government and local authorities, reports **DI CAELERS**.

A STAGGERING total of about 140 000 people live in greater Cape Town's squatter settlements. Of these, tens of thousands have no services other than a tap.

And that's only the official statistic.

In fact, movement both into the city and between squatter camps as a result of violence or social forces means population figures can at best be guesstimates.

There is, however, no guesswork involved in the realisation that the government and local authorities have a lot of work to do in the Western Cape to realise the aims of the reconstruction and development programme.

Figures provided by the Western Cape provincial administration, the Cape Town City Council and other local authorities put the squatter population figure at 140 000 based on the assumption that about four people live in each shack.

Development is continuing in squatter areas which the province is upgrading into serviced sites where people can at least expect tarred roads, lighting, flush toilets, running water and drainage — but still no formal housing.

And gone are the days of forced removals; today the entire developmental process is discussed with the community, ensuring mutual co-operation and ongoing community consultation.

Fanie Naude, community services regional director for the Western Cape, says: "The most important aspect of the developmental process is community participation. This ensures that the specific community is involved in decision-making and continuous consultation with regard to the development of their area."

He points out that the latest statistics show no "marked increase" in the population of informal settlement areas.

Western Cape provincial areas presently include Bloekombos and Wallacedene in Kraaifontein which collectively have a population of 18 200, Sikhumkbule (old Driftsands), home to about 500 families, and Masiphumelele at Noordhoek, with about 3 000 people.

Nomzamo, with 1 812 sites, is the new home of the community that previously lived at Waterkloof, near Somerset West, who were resettled at the Strand in April.

Hout Bay's Mizamoyethu Village, which accommodates families that were already living on site, is being developed in accordance with a layout plan approved in October 1992 and its 500 sites house more than 2 000 people.

The southeastern part of the metropole has the greatest concentrations of people.

In Nyanga about 45 788 people live in settlements including Mpinga Square, Mahobe Drive, Mkonto Square, Millers Camp, Mpetha Square, Black City, KTC and Khalanyoni.

In Guguletu about 5 900 people have settled at Phola Park, New Rest, Tambo Square and a dump site.

There are 14 645 squatters in Langa.

The local authority for this southeastern sector, Ikapa Municipality, put the number of "backyard families" here at 66 625 people.

The Crossroads area, including Old Crossroads, Philippi East (Stock Road) and Boys' Town, has a collective population of about 29 000.

In Boys' Town there are 2 400 sites; Old Crossroads has about 950 shacks, 874 formal houses, 600 serviced sites and another 600 basic sites; and in Stock Road about 700 sites are on the planned school site and another 697 service sites are alongside.

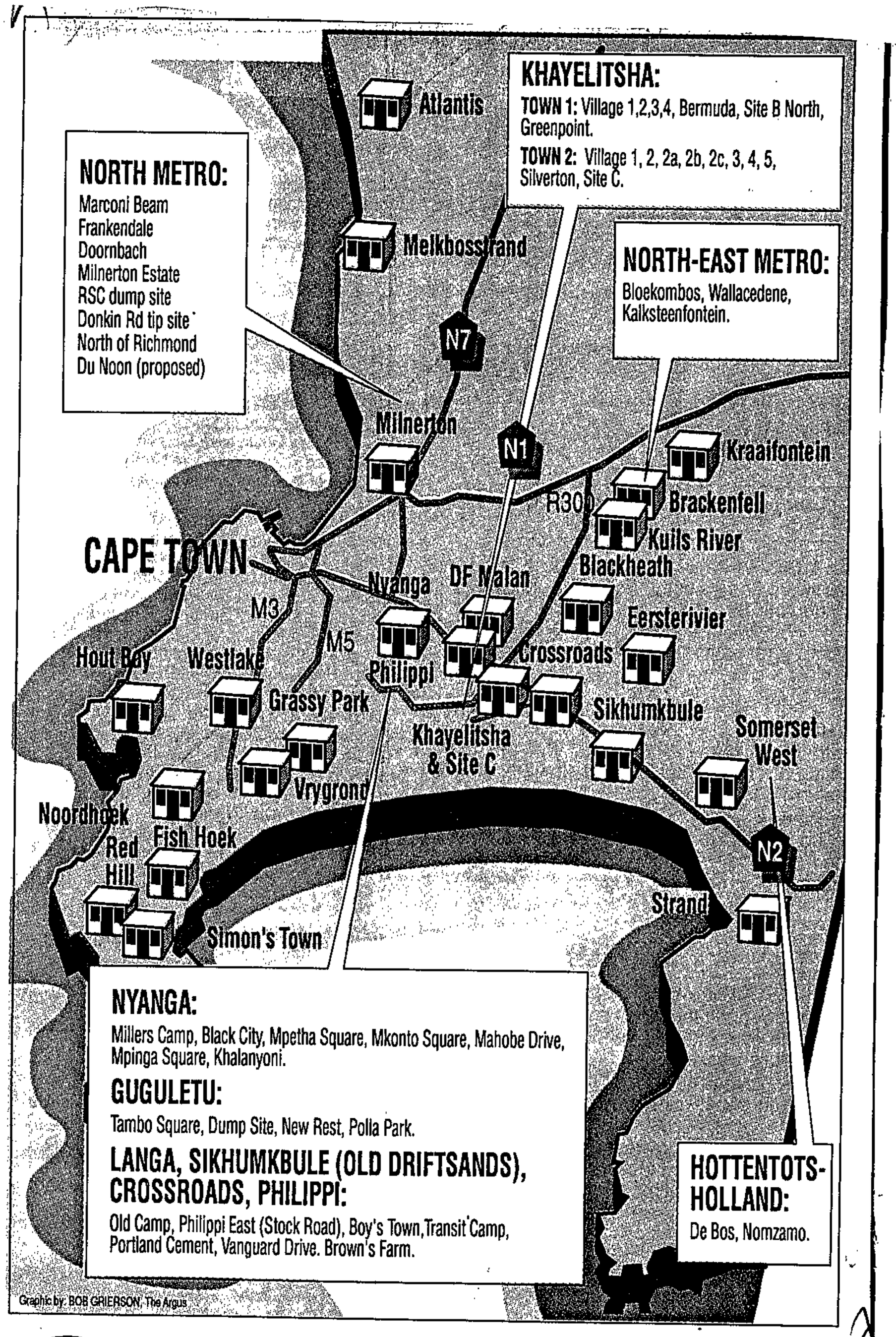
Khayelitsha's structure plan shows about 48 973 people living in Site C, 44 813 in Town 1 Village 3 (Trevor Vilakazi), and 53 714 in Town 1 Village 4 or Victoria Mxenge. The rest of the sprawling township accommodates about 154 529 informal settlers.

In the Cape Town City Council area the two major squatter camps include Vrygrond, near Marina da Gama, and Vygiekraal at Athlone. Both are serviced site areas and are home to 2 378 and 222 people respectively.

There are also 41 shacks off Vanguard Drive in Mitchell's Plain and another 42 people live informally at Pelican Park.

The northern part of the metropole, which will include the controversial Du Noon informal settlement, has about 4 000 people living in 1 069 shacks at Marconi Beam.

ARG 9/7/94 (307)



Squatting

Driftsands squatters arrested

EIGHT Driftsands residents have been arrested in connection with assaults, attempted murder and arson after violence flared in the squatter camp over alleged misuse of housing funds.

Police said the group would appear in the Kuils River Magistrate's Court soon.

This week 16 shacks were torched and several people were injured in a conflict between National Party supporters and Pan Africanist Congress and African National Congress members.

The ANC and the PAC claim NP provincial MP Johnson Ngxobongwana and his committee have misused residents' funds.

NP supporters have denied this saying the conflict is merely an attempt to drive them from the area. — Staff Reporter.

(307) ARG 21/2/94

■ Spontaneous land invasion has often led to legal homes for the homeless.

(307)

PRETORIA. — Land invasion is increasing and the rural black communities who have dared to move on to farms and state land without permission say it is paying dividends. ARG 6/8/94

"We are not prepared to rent land — we want to own it," successful land-grabber Pieter Dickens said.

His family was one of 400 which invaded municipal land at Ballotsview near George in the south-western Cape in January.

Two months later, after negotiations with the town's municipality, an agreement was signed legalising the invasion. Toilets and water points were installed soon afterwards.

Mr Dickens, who has opened a store called Azania on his plot, said the law had not deterred him from moving on to his own piece of land. "We said if you don't give us land, we will find our own."

Spontaneous land occupations have also occurred in Sandkraal outside George since last year when violence forced a number of white farmers to abandon their land.

Municipal authorities there have not responded to the occupations because all the town councillors resigned ahead of the April election.

Sue Wixley of the National Land Committee, an organisation representing more than 400 landless or dispossessed communities, said she had noticed land invasions were on the increase across South Africa.

"It is the enormous problem of landlessness in South Africa which pushes people to occupy land.

"For many rural communities having access to land is about survival. Land is used for farming and subsistence," Ms Wixley said.

New Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said he was urgently trying to finalise a land policy that would accommodate "the land hunger".

"The government intends redistributing 30 percent of South Africa's agricultural land in five years, starting in 1995," Mr Hanekom said in an interview. An inventory of state-owned land was already being drawn up, he said.

His ministry would also ask for at least R250 million from the government's reconstruction and development fund this year to use for compensation payments under a land restitution programme, he said.

The Land Restitution Act would be tabled in parliament this month, he added, which would clear the way for the appointment of Land Claims Court judges and members of the Restitution of Land Rights Committee. — Sapa-Reuter.

Land hunger

We won't pay rent — we want to own it, says land invader

SWOT

Weekend Argus, August 6/7 19

Fearful refugee squatters turned away from Du Noon

ARG 15/8/94 (307)

ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter

REFUGEES from the Driftsands squatter community tried to occupy the controversial Du Noon site near Milnerton but were told to leave by community leaders.

The 100-strong group arrived at Du Noon, which has been set aside for the residents of Marconi Beam, early yesterday but left later.

Last week about 30 Driftsands squatters tried to settle on municipal land near Durbanville before they were removed by police.

They claimed to be card-carrying members of the National Party and supporters of National Party MP Johnson Nxgobongwana, and said they were escaping threats by ANC/PAC members.

They spent Thursday night at the Durbanville police station and were returned to Driftsands on Friday evening by two taxis with a police escort from Durbanville.

The group said they had left Driftsands, near Khayelitsha, because they feared for their lives. Their homes had been torched about three weeks ago and they were staying in a local primary school.

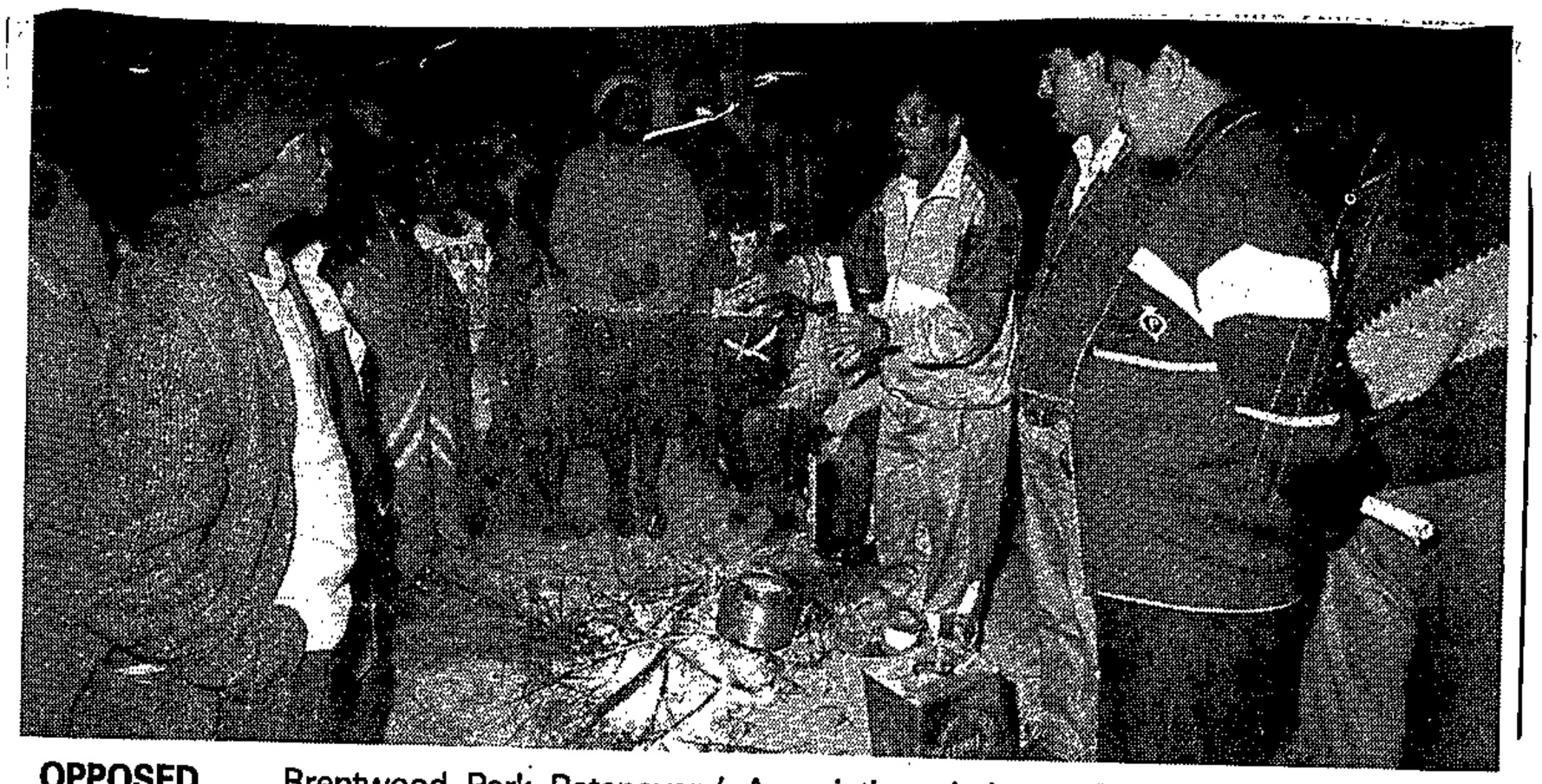
According to Martin Holland, spokesman for the Milnerton Negotiating Forum, leaders of squatter communities in Milnerton negotiated with the group, who arrived at Du Noon early on Sunday, and asked them to leave.

The leaders pointed out that the land had been earmarked for people who had waited a long time.

The group then left in the afternoon using a bakkie, which made return visits.

Mr Holland said Milnerton's attitude was that the Milnerton squatters should be looked after before outsiders.

It is understood the group has returned to Driftsands but has set up camp about a kilometre from the settlement with promises that they will be given full protection.



OPPOSED ... Brentwood Park Ratepayers' Association chairman Mr Willem Burger, in a tracksuit, last night told followers of ousted Driftsands leader Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana that residents are opposed to their squatting nearby. Picture: CLIVE SMITH

CT 16/8/94 (307)

Driftsands: Tense stand-off

By WILLEM STEENKAMP

CONFRONTATION last night between residents of Brentwood Park, Blue Downs, and followers of ousted Driftsands leader Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, who have been settled nearby, was deferred last night after residents decided against forcibly removing the squatters.

The National Party-supporting squatters, who were last week driven from Driftsands by ANC and PAC supporters, had been housed at Durbanville police station until the weekend, when they were moved to Du Noon at Milnerton.

However, ANC- and PAC-supporting factions there opposed their presence, and they were yesterday moved with the help of Durbanville municipality to a spot between the R300 and Brentwood Park.

Last night residents opposing the squatters' presence met and resolved to tell the squatters they were not wanted. They did this, and heated exchanges followed.

Later, Brentwood Park Ratepayers' Association chairman Mr Willem Burger told the angry residents he would meet Mr Ngxobongwana today and speak to Housing Minister Mr Gerald Morkel on the issue. Mr Morkel said last night he had instructed a new site be found today.

"These squatters are not cattle — they are people," Mr Morkel said.



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

MOB AT WORK: Angry Brentwood Park residents knock down one the houses erected in bush near their homes as a Driftsands mother looks on helplessly.

Police called as angry residents evict squatters

ARG 17/8/94 (307)

□ Driftsands homeless move again

JOSEPH ARANES, Staff Reporter

ABOUT 30 Brentwood Park residents, some with baseball bats and dogs, tore down the plastic shelters of the Driftsands squatters who had occupied land near homes.

Police were called in to defuse a tense stand-off between squatters and residents who were bent on driving them out of the bush and dumping them on open land near the Delft community centre.

Eventually some squatters were allowed to stay and the residents gave them until 6pm today to move, threatening that they would continue evictions then, "even if it means landing in jail."

Last night's confrontation was yet another chapter in the squatters' struggle to find a place to live after they were driven out of Driftsands because of their political affiliation.

The more than 50 squatters are all card-carrying National Party members and moved to the bush in Blue Downs on Sunday after being thrown out of Du Noon and Durbanville.

The chairman of the Brentwood Park Ratepayrs' Association, Willem Burger, said the problem was not racial, but political, which politicians had to sort out.

"But they are all running away from it and are now making their problems our problems. We can't have people squatting opposite our homes.

"Regional housing minister Gerald Morkel said they are not cattle — but he has allowed them to be herded around from pillar to post without addressing their problem."

At 6.30pm residents moved into the bush and, after explaining their plan to the squatters' leader, started pulling down structures.

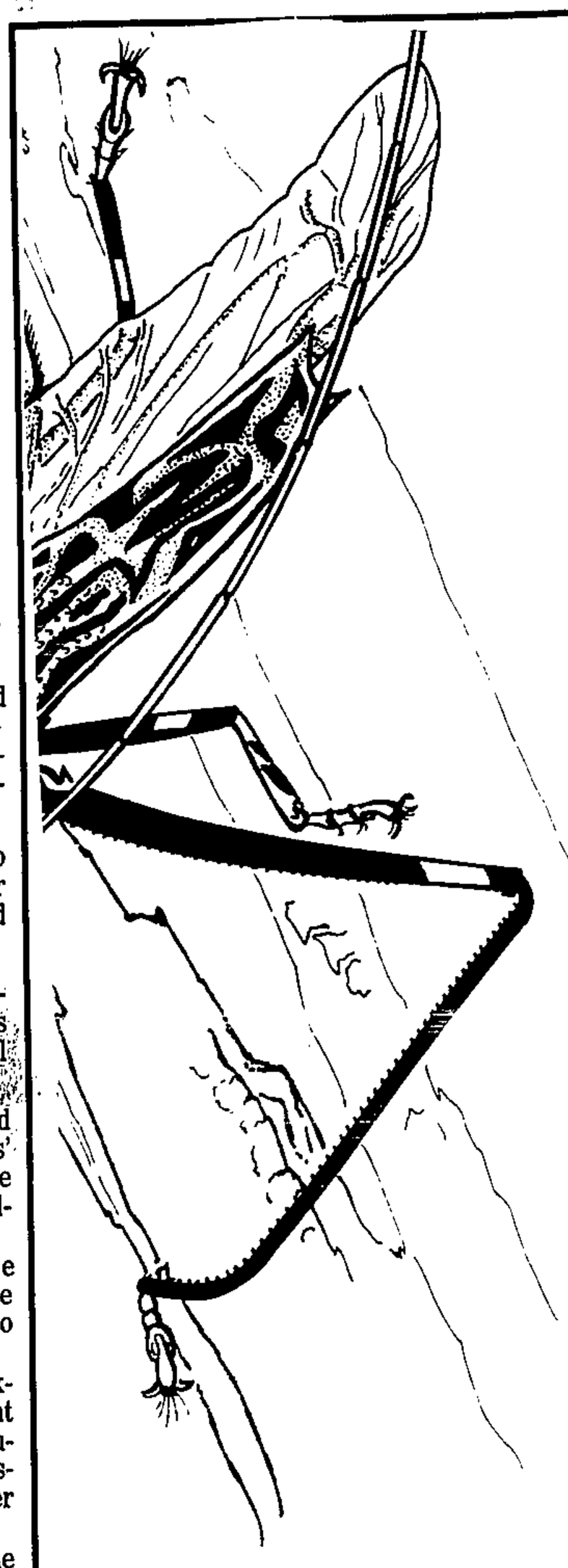
The squatters offered no resistance until a pot of food was knocked onto the ground from an oil stove.

A lorry with a long trailer arrived and residents packed the squatters' building material on to it and drove the corrugated iron sheets and wooden poles to Delft.

Mr Burger said: "We told the squatters we don't want them here and gave them until last night to move."

While more loads were being taken away, a large police contingent arrived and, after their initial confusion in deciding how to handle the issue, an Internal Stability Unit officer took charge.

Colonel Johan Vorster ordered the removals to be stopped and brought the leaders of the different groups together to try to find a solution.



White paper on squatter issue

(304)

By CHRIS BATEMAN
Political Staff

A WHITE paper to deal with, among others, the estimated 150 000 illegal squatters in the Western Cape is being planned by provincial Housing Minister Mr Gerald Morkel.

Announcing this in the provincial legislature yesterday, Mr Morkel said there were also 215 000 shack-dwellers on school and church sites, sports fields, road reserves and public land.

Then there were the additional 400 000 people simply squatting or in dire need of improved living conditions.

His ministry had set aside 29 informal settlement areas under the Less Formal Township Establishment Act of 1991. While he did not condone the illegal occupation of land, he had a moral and legal responsibility to maintain orderliness in informal housing. CT 18/8/94

The white paper would contain a decisive plan to counter land invasion, he said.

Mr Morkel also announced that his regional housing board had approved a code of conduct for developers of housing projects under the R12 500 state subsidy scheme.

NP squatters seek safe haven



ON THE MOVE: Mary Cholani, who built her first shack in Crossroads 20 years ago, is still looking for a permanent home Photo: Yunus Mohamed

South 26/8 – 30/8/94

By Quentin Wilson

DRIVEN from Crossroads, and now driven from Driftsands, squatter leader Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his group of 300 followers set up camp in the bushes near Delft at the weekend.

Ngxobongwana, who is also an NP member of the Western Cape legislature, continued his search for safer pastures over the past week after also being rejected by Milnerton and Durbanville authorities.

Ngxobongwana and his followers claim they were chased out of Driftsands earlier this month by community members who despise them for joining the NP.

After negotiations with police, ANC and PAC leadership, the group sought vacant ground in Durbanville and Milnerton to set up camp.

In both instances, local authorities rejected their presence and now the squatters have moved near Delft to carve out a new future.

For many of the squatters, their forced nomadic lifestyle is taking its toll.

According to 65 year-old Mrs Mary Cholani, who is considered by her community as the "founder of Crossroads", this latest move is a devastating blow.

(307)

"My heart is bleeding," Cholani said. "If I think back to 20 years ago when I built my first shack in Crossroads — I am in exactly the same position now.

"What hurts me is that I was expecting to move from Crossroads into a comfortable home. Instead I am still moving around in shacks. I am so sick and tired of moving that the only time I will move now, is if they can find me a proper, comfortable home.

"We are not satisfied that the provincial government has done everything they can to assist us," said Mr John Mata, one of the community leaders in the camp.

Ngxobongwana refused to comment on the provincial government's role in protecting the squatters because he did not have "permission from other NP leaders".

Squatting on and damn the floodline!

(307)
ARG 27/8/94

ADELLE HORLER
Weekend Argus Reporter

■ Worcester squatters next to the Hex River are staying put, in spite of living below the river's floodline.

ABOUT 600 squatters on the banks of the Hex River in Worcester are refusing to budge — in spite of claims by the municipality that the area is under the 50-year floodline.

The nursery squatters, so-called because they live on the grounds of an old nursery, have rejected two alternative sites proposed by the municipality.

And now the Worcester Civic Rights Organisation (Wocro) is threatening "militant action" if the municipality refuses to take steps to prevent future flooding, should the squatters decide to stay where they are.

Wocro co-ordinator Harold Baxter said: "The 50-year floodline wouldn't be a problem if the river was deepened at that point.

"We've already forced the municipality to agree to five extra taps on the nursery site — they'll be forced to deepen the river if we involve the community in militant action."

Two weeks ago Wocro threatened a sit-in, which prompted the municipality to close for a day. Extra taps were promised soon afterwards.

But Wocro has been criticised for its aggressive approach by members of the Concerned Residents Association (CRA), a more moderate body that also represents the squatters.

The CRA said that by succumbing to Wocra's strongarm tactics, the municipality was giving power to the radical elements and dividing the camp.

Johannes Appels of the CRA said: "The squatters gave us a mandate to proceed, but the municipality is talking to individuals without any knowledge of the dynamics of the camp.

"We've been negotiating for those taps for months. Tension is mounting now because the municipality has shown that if you go through the correct, moderate channels, you don't get anywhere."

Town engineer Willie Coetzee denied Wocro had "forced" a decision to install the taps.

"We decided to grant extra taps to the squatters without pressure from anyone," said Mr Coetzee, adding that he had not yet given instructions to install them.

"Who knows when a decision on the camp will be made? They may move next week, so why spend between R5 000 and R10 000 on the taps when the money could be put to better use on a permanent site.

"We're not sure what to do. If they move the taps will have been a waste of money. But, in the meantime, the people are suffering."

The 105 shacks on the nursery site are home to about 630 people who share a single tap and have no electricity or toilets. Some have built their own pit toilets, but most make do by digging a hole in the ground.

In spite of the unhygenic conditions, the site is pleasantly green and protected by trees. The residents are settled and some have started vegetable gardens.

Mr Baxter said that although a final decision has yet to be made, the squatters want the area turned into an official township with services.

'Tension is mounting now because the municipality has shown that if you go through the correct, moderate channels, you don't get anywhere.'

But, according to the municipality, there is little chance of that.

"If they decide to stay we won't force them to leave, but everyone wil[illegible]

Park, was part of an established resi dential area. It would be linked t roads and have waterborne sewage taps and street lights.

But the squatters say the site is un suitable.

"It's too wet, too exposed and to close to the Breede River," said nurs ery site resident David Meyer.

"We want to stay here and hav services installed. If we move at all we want to go into proper structures on better ground.

"I'm a builder and I know that Avi an Park is not suitable for building It's too damp and the clay under neath will cause the foundations tc sink.

"Houses that have been built there so far are already cracking."

The other alternative site, River view in Worcester South, was "toc rocky".

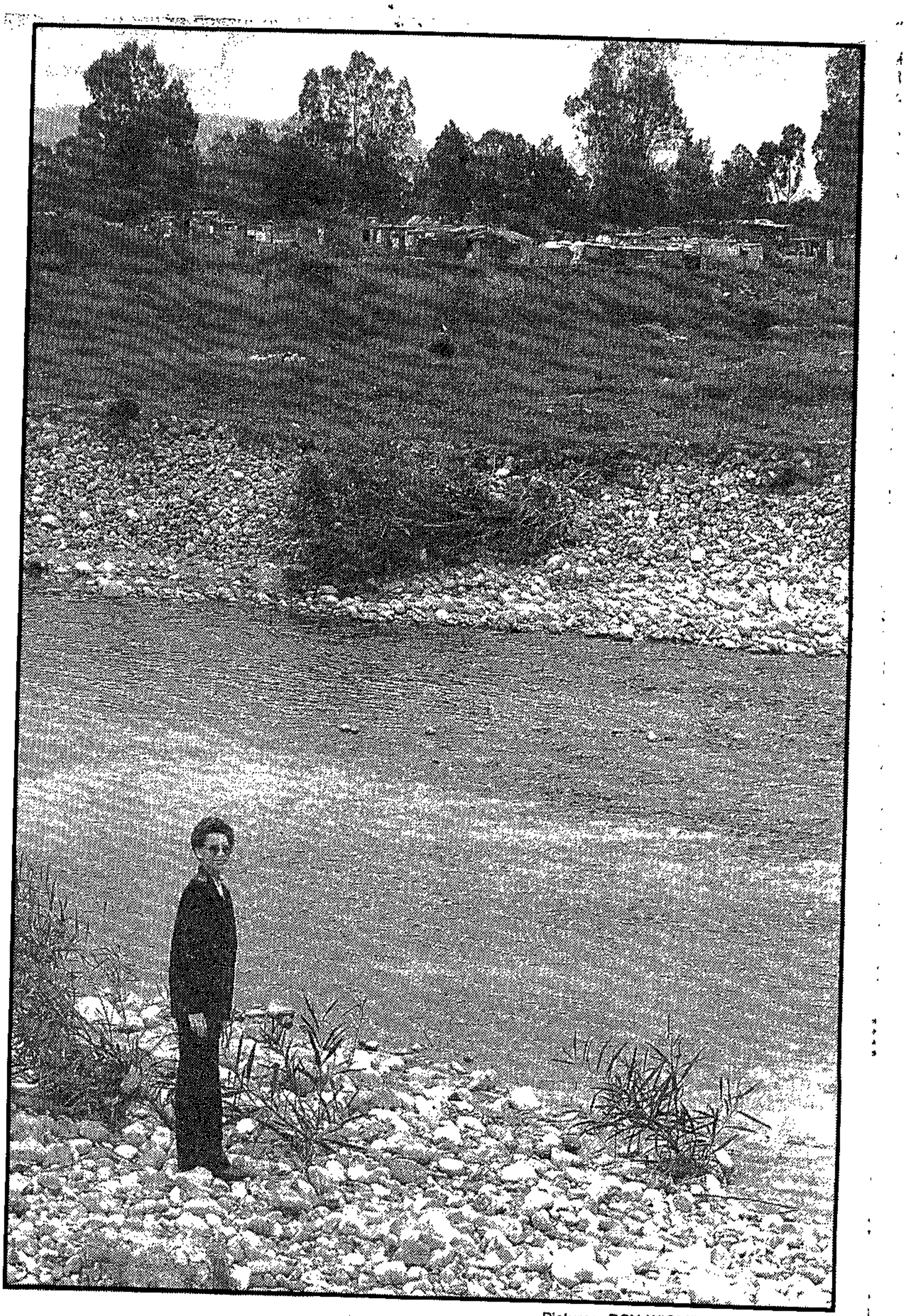
Wocro has accused the municipality of refusing to make a decision on the squatters, saying they are afraid of the "political consequences".

"No one wants a squatter camp next door," said Mr Baxter.

"The majority of Johnsons Park residents (a "middle-class" suburb opposite the camp) supported the petition, and those at Avian Park and Riverview will also object to them.

"Whether the squatters stay or go depends on the decision of the council, but they're unwilling to make it."

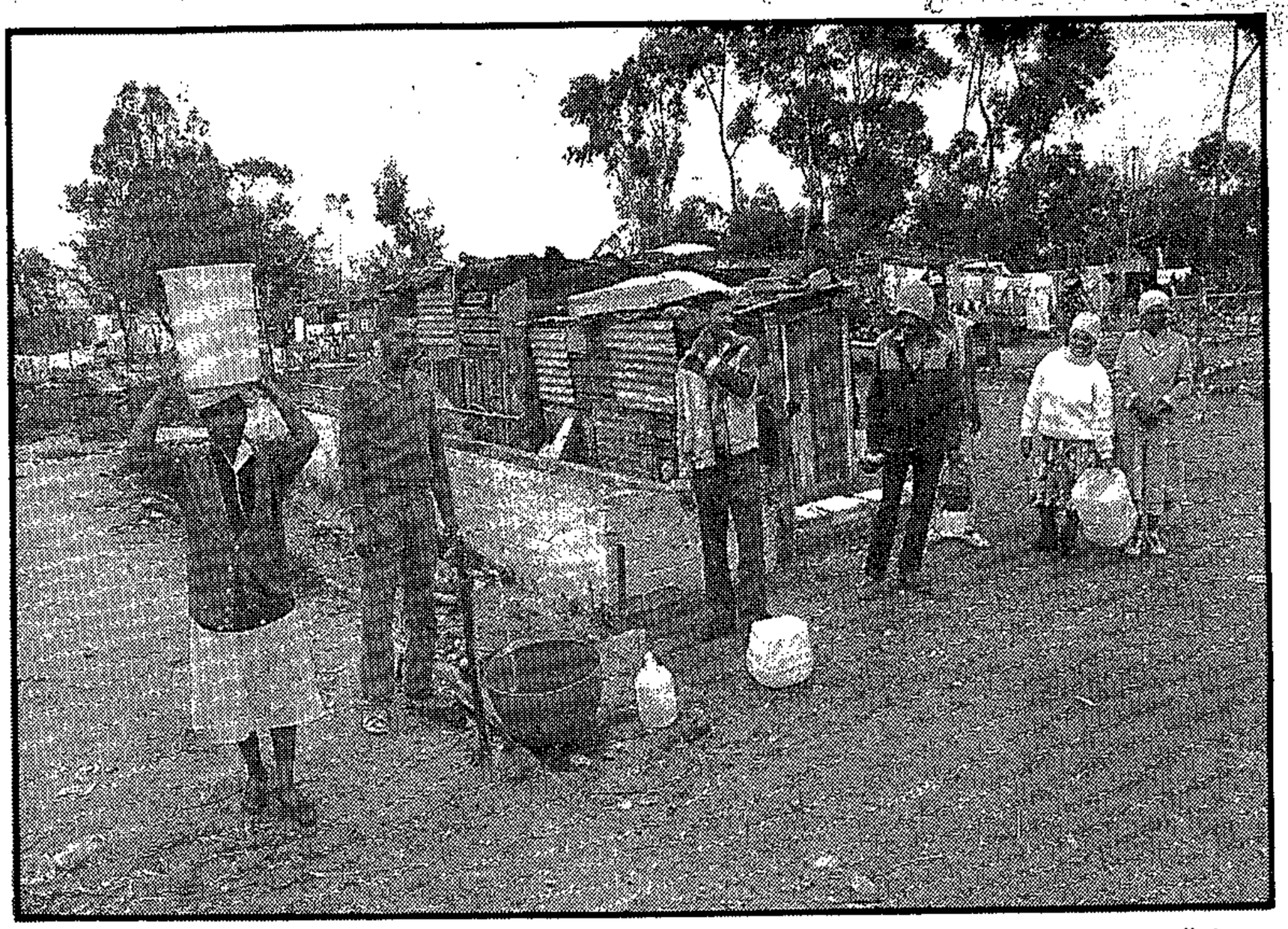
But the council, which is soon to be replaced by the Transitional Local Council, feels all parties should be in-



Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus.

☐ **UP THE CREEK:** Clinic sister Cynthia Johnson points out that while the squatter camp may be below the Hex River's 50-year floodline, it is protected by an embankment.

ARG 27108/94
(307)



☐ **WATER QUEUE:** The 600 squatters in Worcester share a single tap and have no toilets. They want the site upgraded.

"It won't be made an official township because the area is under a floodline and they don't have the blessing of the community," he said, referring to a community petition of 500 signatures objecting to the squatters' presence.

"It's also too isolated — they would never be part of a community with schools and health facilities."

Mr Coetzee said one of the municipality's alternative offers, the proposed site-and-service area at Avian Town clerk Neels de Bruyn said: "It is not a decision for this council alone, at least not the present one.

"We have been very humane in the treatment of informal settlements and we won't force anyone to move anywhere. The decision must be made by everyone."

But, as the various bodies drag their feet over deciding on the squatter camp's fate, its residents continue to live in appalling conditions and under the threat of flooding.

ARG 27/08/96

(307)

Telkom to give squatters land

By Alexandra Zavis

TELKOM is set to hand over 25 hectares of land to the Marconi Beam squatters for permanent settlement, ending years of conflict.

The transfer will be in phases, and Telkom will hand over 5ha to a community trust to start the process once the residents have moved out of one portion of the current settlement, Telkom will give them the next section of new land.

Previous proposals would have forced the Marconi squatters to move between five and 15 kilometres, but this deal gives them land next to their present site.

A spokesperson for Telkom said that the corporation would like to sell the 200ha of unused land it owned in the area, but would not be able to do so until the dispute with the squatters had been resolved.

The company has, however, set pre-conditions for the transfer.

The community must first set up a trust to be the legal land holder.

This trust would draw up a comprehensive development plan and secure the necessary financing from the Regional Housing Board, commercial lending institutions and local or international funders.

The community has had to register all its members, and nobody who arrived in the area after August 15 this year will be eligible for a house.

Each household must sign an agreement confirming that they are prepared to move as long as affordable housing is made available.

This final stipulation has proved to be the only obstacle, as some residents are reluctant to sign until they have actually seen the houses.

Ms Cynthia Madola said: "They say there are going to be houses for us, but we have been talking about this since 1992. I am scared. Why do they say we must sign before the houses are built?"

The project sets land aside for commercial and industrial use.

Fifteen hectares will be used for subsidised housing and five for higher value housing, but the remaining five will be made available at market rates to private enterprises. This will provide a source of revenue and employment.

"We don't believe in providing housing for people unless it goes hand in hand with economic empowerment — and that means jobs," explained Alastair Rendall of the Development Action Group.

The community is delighted.

Mr Michael Dikana, a designated trustee, said: "I am happy that Telkom is going to give us land. It is bigger than the land we are staying on, and we are going to build some big shops, schools and houses."

But the process will be a long one. The new land has not even been cleared yet, and it will probably take the better part of next year to put in services and build houses on just the first five hectares.

A public meeting will be held on September 22 to outline details of the proposed rezoning of Marconi Beam and to address questions.

Plans to stop shanty towns

CT 9/9/94 (307)

By CHRIS BATEMAN

PLANS were being devised to encourage existing township communities to "become co-responsible" in preventing illegal squatting and halting the erection of backyard shanties, Western Cape Premier Mr Hernus Kriel revealed yesterday.

Opening a two-day international conference hosted by the SA Institute for Town and Regional Planners at a Sea Point hotel, he said the plans would emerge in a white paper on uncontrolled urbanisation.

"We have an urban crisis in the Cape metropole ... we are a peninsula and land is therefore scarce and expensive," Mr Kriel told several hundred delegates whom he urged to help investigate the "optimum utilisation of this area".

He said tourism was a major local industry and therefore dealing with environmental conservation needed "careful and timeous planning".

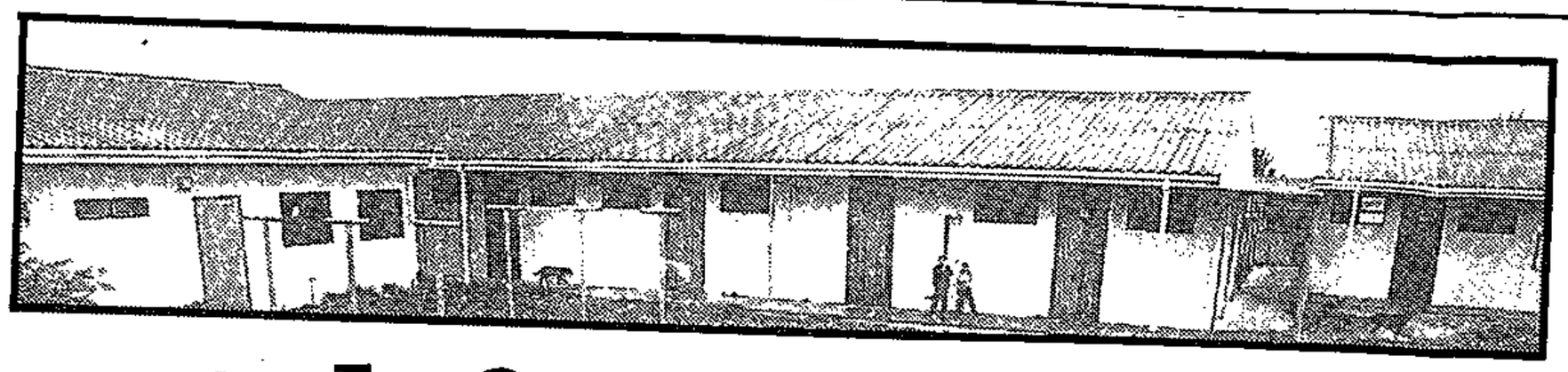
Urbanisation was unstoppable and had to be managed. However, invasion of land and "farming" of squatters were unacceptable. His government could not manage urbanisation without the "co-operation and participation of the communities themselves".

Mr Kriel said only the private sector created jobs. The government's responsibility was to create a climate in which the economy could grow.

☐ Squatters face eviction over electricity bills

Tension as coloured families move into hostel for Africans

ARG 28/9/94 (ARG) (307)



THIS IS HOME: The Hillsight hostel complex in Grabouw.

Pictures: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus

VUYO BAVUMA
Political Staff

TENSION is simmering in Grabouw after 45 coloured families moved into a hostel complex allocated to African squatters whose houses were destroyed in an inferno.

The squatters are now staying at the Myezo High School complex, but are facing eviction because of increasing electricity bills.

The squatters became destitute after their shacks were destroyed by a fire in the Waterworks settlement last month.

They were temporarily housed at the school while the authorities upgraded the disused Hillsight hostel.

But last Thursday the coloured families moved in and have refused to budge.

They said they were desperate for accommodation and had suffered under the previous apartheid government.

They said the African squatters could return to the homelands where they owned large tracts of land.

At the weekend the squatters asked police to increase patrols in the area because they feared attacks after several people were arrested for vandalising their hostels.

Meanwhile, a meeting yesterday attended by representatives from organisations, including the Peace Committee and the Grabouw Advice Office, resolved to ask the government to upgrade another section of the Hillsight hostel.

Squatter Thanto Abeila, whose shack was destroyed in the fire, said he was desperate to move into his rightful place.

It was ironic, he said, that most of the coloured peeople came from nearby location Pineview where their houses were a "far cry from the squatters' shacks".

"The invaders are being opportunistic and are now causing difficulties for us. Last week we had a meeting with their representatives, but they refused to accept our case.

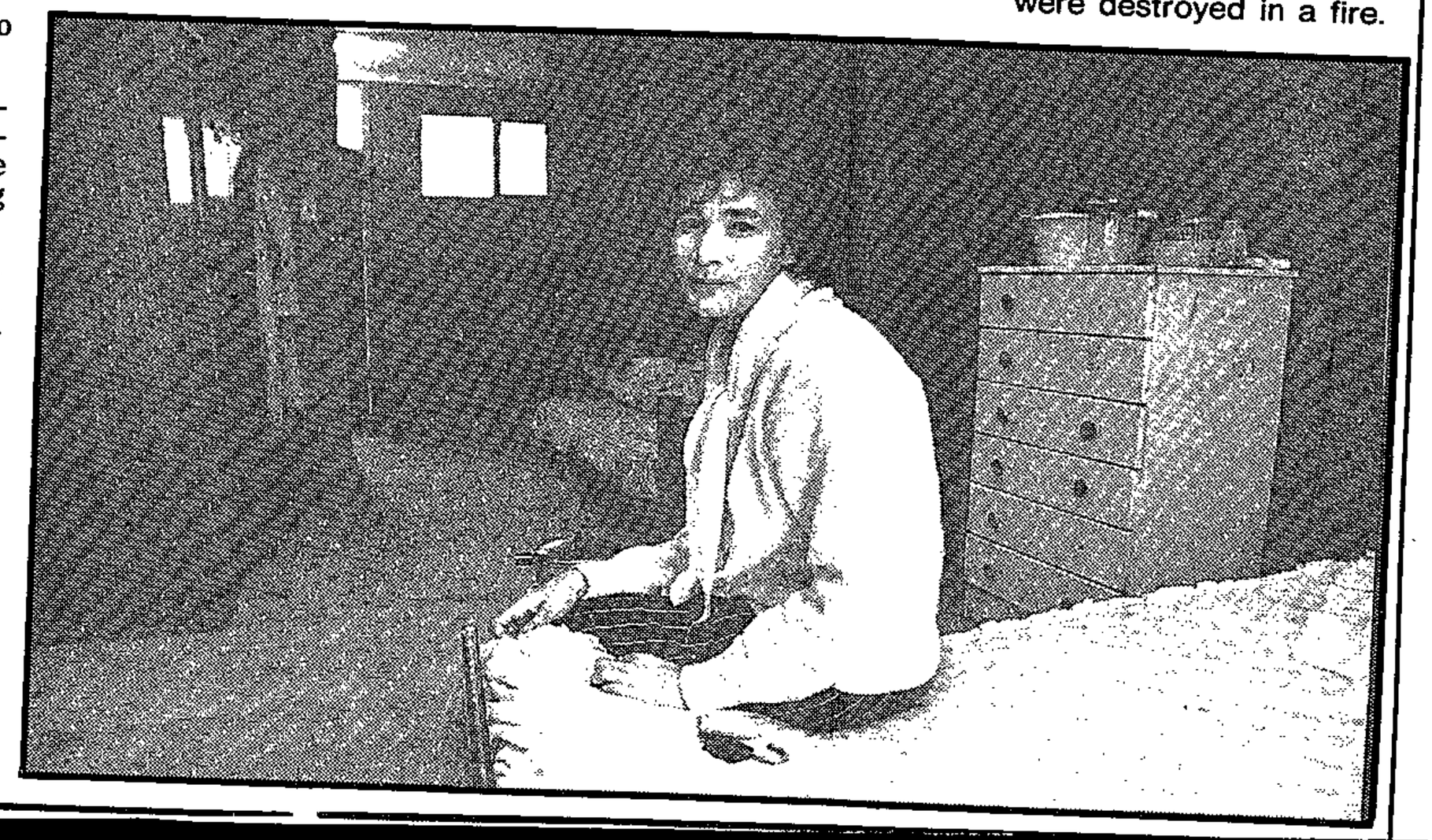
"But we won't give up the struggle to move back into our places."

Mother of two Daphne Jansen, 60, one of the illegal tenants, said she had been on the waiting list for a very long time.

Under the previous government, she and her family had experienced "a lot of hardship" while they stayed in a garage, but they now felt free, she said.

Another tenant, Marianna Strauss, said she was tired of staying in a one-roomed backyard house that used to become waterlogged on rainy days.

She said she knew she had moved into the area at her own risk, but was desperate for the accommodation.



JUST ARRIVED: Illegal tenant Marianna Strauss, below, a mother of one, on the bed in her room at the hostel complex. The hostels were earmarked for African squatters whose shacks were destroyed in a fire.

Migrant 'swamp' warning for W Cape

South Press 11/10/94

By Waghied Misbach

ABOUT a thousand unemployed people a week are pouring into the Western Cape and it will be "swamped" if the government doesn't develop the Eastern Cape economy.

Commenting on recent reports on ways to halt the influx, Wesgro economist Professor Wolfgang Thomas said according to their statistics large numbers of unemployed people were coming into the region from economically deprived areas such as the Transkei and Ciskei.

Thomas said the only way to tackle the problem is to increase job opportunities in both regions.

"This is possible in the framework of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, but it demands dedication and determination."

He said the solution was "not to stop the influx by building a fence in the Hottentots Holland mountains", but to activate the development potential of both regions.

Thomas said it was "understandable" that people in the Western Cape were concerned about the rate of migration because of the sprawling squatter settlements.

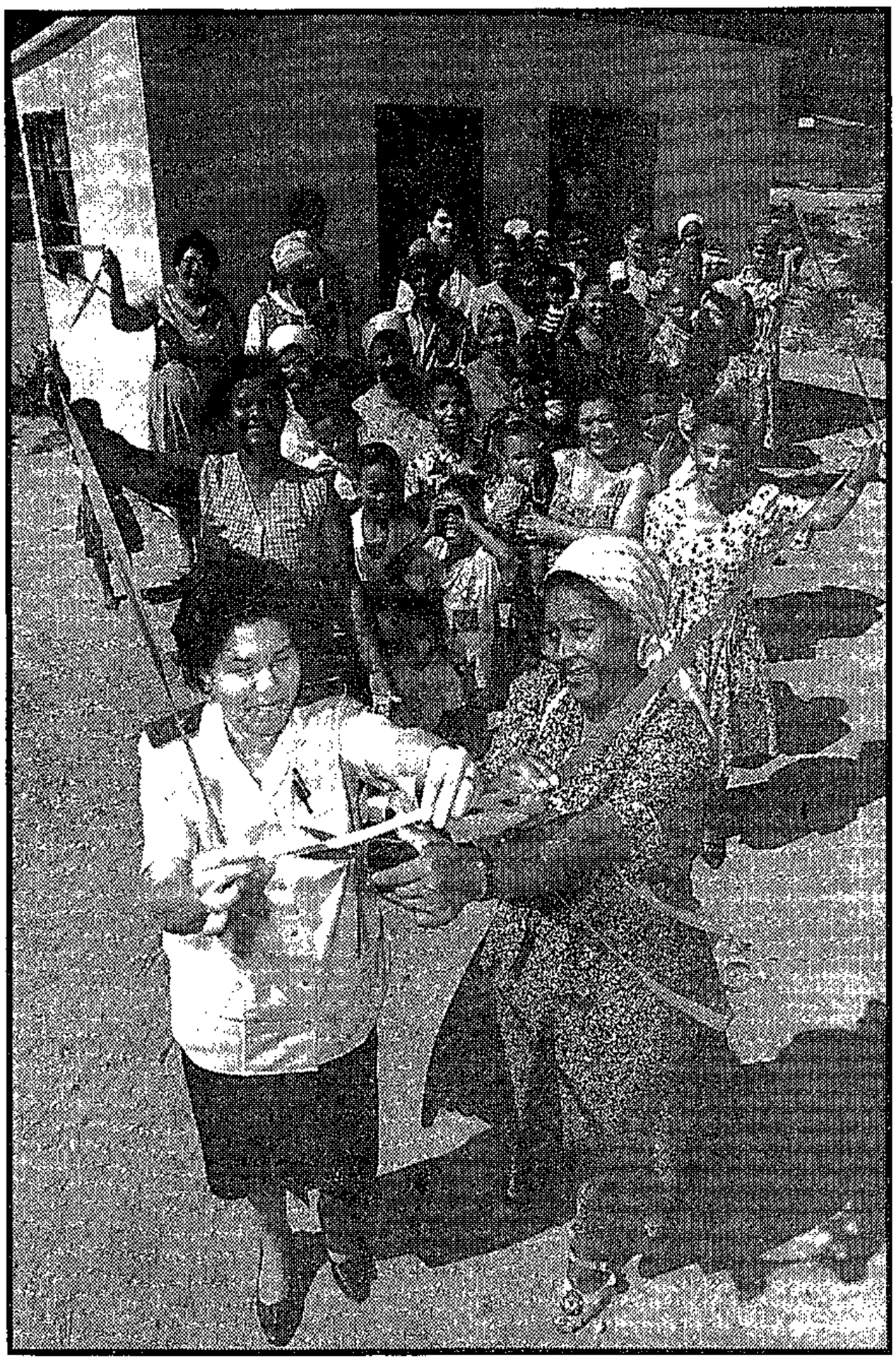
"Yet, the people coming here have moved because growth is worse in their home area and they are determined to improve their position."

However, Thomas argued the migration of people to the cities could "eventually enrich the process of development". (307)

The demand of African consumers in the Western Cape has "added significantly" to overall production and trade in the region, he said.

He also expected the housing boom to alleviate the squatter problem, provide a "major stimulus" to industry, construction and every other sector of the Western Cape economy during the rest of the nineties.

CAPE Arg. 12/10/94 (307)



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

NEW HOPE: Residents cheer as nursing sister Ida Adams and benefactor Jeanette MacDonald cut a ribbon to mark the opening of a new clinic in the Sun City squatter camp just below Sir Lowry's Pass.

Squatters offer prayers of thanks as clinic opens for 700 families

JOSEPH ARANES, Staff Reporter

PRAYERS and cheers rose as residents of the Sun City squatter camp near Sir Lowry's Pass village witnessed the opening of a new clinic.

For the relatively isolated people of the nearly 700-family camp, the simple 3m by 4m prefabricated building is a sign of the changing times.

The chairman of the local affiliate of the SA National Civics Organisation, Sam Britz, said yesterday that the community had previously been served by a mobile clinic.

"After our hard work and a generous donation from a caring friend we can boast our own clinic," he said.

"We started a campaign to raise funds to build the much-needed clinic when Jeanette MacDonald, a regular visitor to the area, came to our assistance and gave the R1 200 deposit for the structure.

"The community now owes the builders R2 800, which we have to repay during the next few months. We are very thankful to Mrs MacDonald for her generosity."

Nursing sister Ida Adams, of the Regional Services Council health department, which now uses the mobile clinic to ferry supplies to the new clinic in the camp, is equally relieved.

"It's wonderful to see people doing things for the benefit of the whole community and the clinic will definitely improve the general health of the residents," she said.

"We will also be able to attend to more patients and vaccinate more of the area's children."

● Mr Britz said the community was also involved in a cleanup campaign and had filled more than 100 refuse bags since the weekend.

"But we have a problem because none of the local authorities want to collect the bags of garbage and we don't know what to do with it."

Epping squatters: Chamber appeals

CT 25/10/94 (307)

MAGGIE ROWLEY
Property Editor

THE Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry has appealed to the Minister of Housing in the Western Cape to take firm action against an unauthorised squatter settlement off Vanguard Drive near Epping Industria.

Chamber executive directorMr Alan Lighton said the appeal followed complaints from members.

The area was earmarked for a formal housing development with community facilities.

Members feared the unauthorised land invasion would spill over on to vacant industrial land.

They were also concerned about the security aspect.

The chamber advertised in the Cape Times yesterday to inform members of the appeal.

Western Cape Housing Minister Mr Gerald Morkel said he had received complaints from the chamber and industries in Epping.

"We have referred the problem to the Serviced Land Project, as this site has been earmarked as part of that project.

"All these people are also on the waiting list for a serviced site, and as soon as the SPL has serviced sites ready for them in Greenfields, near Khayelitsha, they will be moved there. This in turn will free the site in question for servicing."

Mr Morkel said the SLP had also been talking to the civics and community organisations to try to get their assistance in preventing more people from illegally occupying the site off Vanguard Drive.

In a prime position but no glitter at 'Sun City'

307 ARG 26/10/94



DAILY ROUTINE: Residents of Sun City squatter camp stand in line to fill their containers with clean tap water.

TOP LEFT: Mildred Abrahams and her friend's daughter Kruit Kleinsmit trek across the Sir Lowry's Pass river after collecting the daily supply of water.

Pictures:
DOUG PITHEY
The Argus.

Municipal Staff

IN a perfect world, Sun City, near Sir Lowry's Pass Village, would be a sought-after neighbourhood, to say the least.

Set on the lower slopes of the Hottenots-Holland mountains, within earshot of traffic negotiating the scenic pass, parts of Sun City have excellent views of the surrounding mountains and False Bay from Gordon's Bay to Smitswinkel Bay.

But, as Sun City is a rapidly growing squatter camp housing more than 700 families living in conditions that are far from ideal, it is yet another blot on a landscape that is constantly yielding to low-cost housing pressures.

The Sir Lowry's Pass River has not remained unblemished, as a community with no access to basic services struggles to find fresh water to drink and places to dump its waste. This quest has left the once-pristine river more than a little vulnerable.

None of the houses has a toilet and two taps are the residents' only source of clean drinking water.

Sam Britz, chairman of the settlement's civic association, said that for the past eight years no local government structure had lifted a finger to help the people living there.

"And now we have serious health, pollution and other problems in the community."

Mr Britz said the lack of services made life difficult and miserable for the residents.

"People are continuously sick, almost every second resident has tuberculosis and most of the children have stomach problems.

"This makes us very sad because as a community we have tried very hard to keep the place clean and free of germs but it is an impossible task when you get no assistance from the local authorities.

"Just last week we dumped hundreds of black bags full of garbage next to the road and only because of our doing that, the Western Cape Regional Services Council collected them."

Resident Racheal Plaatjies said there was a constant bad smell in the camp because of the refuse piling up.

"The river is an absolute mess and we are concerned about the pollution, especially as some of the residents use the water for drinking, to wash themselves and their clothes.

"But where must the people dump their nightsoil and garbage? If the authorities can't provide a service, we are forced to live under these conditions."

Resident Peter Botha said if the authorities provided them with services and decent houses they would not have to live as they were living now.

"They have taken away our pride and dignity and the only way to restore it is to give us houses we will be proud of. That was what they promised us before the elections."

The area around the shacks is generally clean and most residents have vegetable gardens — but they all dump their garbage in the river and this, says a CSIR water study, is the root of their poor health.

Councils get tough over land invasion

(307)

ARG 27/10/94

Municipal Staff

ILLEGAL land invasions will not be tolerated in the Western Cape.

This is the warning contained in a joint statement from the provincial ministers of police and housing, the Vape Town City Council and the Ikapa Town Council.

Local authorities would contain uncontrolled squatting "with all the measures at its disposal".

The statement added that the matter should be resolved by negotiation and that confrontation "must be avoided".

They were reacting to the recent occupation of land in Langa next to Vanguard Drive by hundreds of families who have started pegging the land and erecting shacks.

The move caused serious concern among residents of Langa, neighbouring Bonteheuwel and the industrial community of Epping Industria.

The statement read: "On behalf of the provincial administration of the Western Cape we want to state unequivocally that illegal land invasion of any nature cannot be tolerated.

"Urbanisation places immense challenges on any authority but it is imperative the process be controlled and managed within a realistic framework of planning strategy.

"The government believes uncontrolled squatting must be contained with all measures at its disposal.

"New structures which are in the process of being erected, and unoccupied houses, will be demolished by the responsible authorities."

The statement continued: "It is also a matter of principle that this type of land invasion must be resolved through negotiations and confrontational tactics must be avoided.

"But random squatting actually perpetuates the problems of urbanisation and does not contribute to any solutions."

The statement said in spite of the realisation that acceptable accommodation was a right to which all people were entitled, it was morally unacceptable for people to take matters into their own hands by invading land without owners' permission.



LANGA SHACK RAID: The Internal Stability Unit stood guard as city council demolition teams broke down shacks along the Jakkalsvlei canal adjoining Langa. Shackdwellers have threatened forceful resistance to any further demolitions.

Picture: FANIE JASON.

Squatters 'will resist with force' shack razing

(307)

ARG 4/11/94

☐ City council action 'flouts agreement'

MXOLISI MGXASHE
Staff Reporter

RESIDENTS of the Jakkalsvlei Canal squatter camp adjoining Langa have threatened to resist with force any renewed attempts by Cape City Council to demolish their shacks.

City council demolition teams, accompanied by armed police, invaded the squatter camp two days ago and destroyed scores of shacks.

Squatters said the demolitions flouted a recent joint agreement by the city council, Kapa town council and the Western Cape housing ministry.

In terms of this agreement squatters' representatives would always be consulted about any action taken to curb informal settlement in the area.

"They came and rolled their barbed-wire fence around our community and told us they had come to demolish only those shacks that were still being constructed and did not have any occupants," said one squatter.

He said squatters had pleaded for their homes to be spared, saying they were spending lots on building materials, but had been ignored.

When children threw stones at the demolition teams and police, teargas and dogs were used to disperse the mob.

"If this is how we are going to be treated in a country that belongs to all of us, after casting our votes for this government, then we will have to defend ourselves with whatever is at our disposal," warned Jongikhaya Tshetsha, a member of the squatters' committee.

He said he was certain that the city council and the police were being instigated by Langa residents opposed to having shacks in the vicinity.

Yesterday some squatters were busy rebuilding the demolished shacks.

One said: "We are not going anywhere until they take us to a place that has toilets, water and other health amenities. If not, we are prepared to die here."

Sam Dodgen, spokesman for the Western Cape housing ministry, said: "I did not even know about the action of the city council until I read it in the Press. I do not blame the squatters for their fury. We did say we would consult with them before taking action."

The city council was unavailable for comment.

ber of the violent ... the brake pedal.

Minister should probe CPOA, says councillor

ARG 30/11/94

Municipal Reporter 300

THE Cape Peninsula Organisation for the Aged should be thoroughly investigated by provincial welfare minister Ebrahim Rasool because it is not providing housing for elderly people in need.

This call was made by councillor Ian Iversen in a stinging attack on the organisation while the council was deciding to repossess land in Kirstenhof which the CPOA has failed to develop.

Mr Iversen said that the CPOA's modus operandi was "quite disquieting".

The organisation was sitting on "a huge pot of money" and had lots of cheap land. At the same time there were thousands of elderly people who needed affordable housing.

Instead, the CPOA had built expensive accommodation in Newlands selling at over R180 000 a unit — or letting at between R2 000 and R3 000 a month.

It was demolishing an old-age home in Mouille Point and had closed another in Muizenberg.

"I hope Mr Rasool will put the CPOA in the spotlight and do a government investigation on how it operates," he said.

In support of Mr Iversen, Joye Gibbs said that she knew of an elderly woman who had lived in Richmond House, Muizenberg, which is being refurbished, who shot herself recently because she could not face being moved.

She said buildings were up for demolition and elderly people who paid R300 a month in rent had nowhere to go."

Executive committee chairman Arthur Wienburg said that the land in question on Lente Street in Kirstenhof had been the second piece of land which the CPOA had acquired cheaply from a local authority.

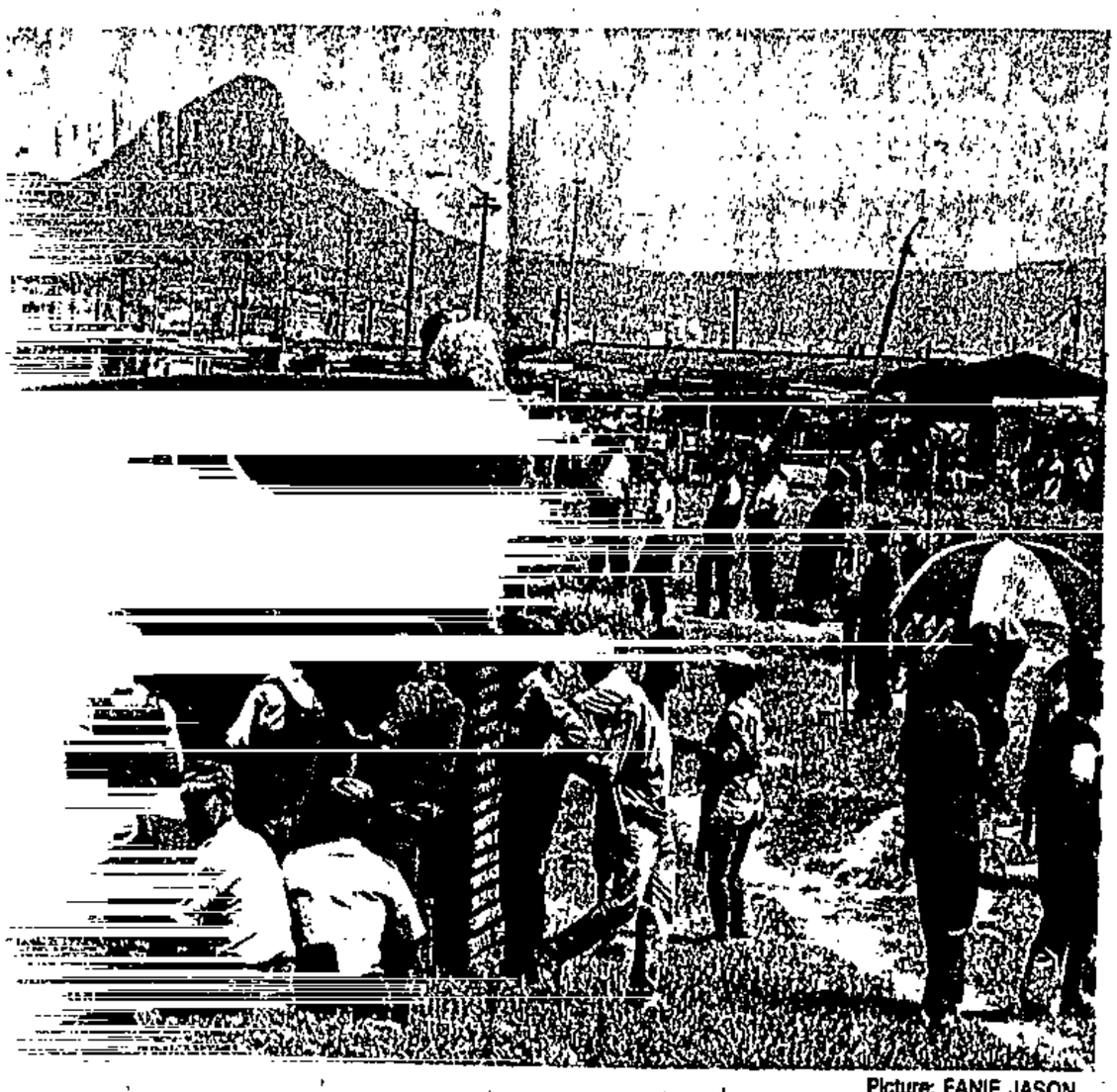
The CPOA had recently applied to the city council for permission to allow Shell to put up a service station there.

Squatters 'will resist with force' shack razing

(30)

ARG 4/11/94

City council action 'flouts agreement



Picture: FANIE JASON.

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Rightwingers angry over changes in names of dams

ARG 30/11/94

(306)

☐ H F Verwoerd now Gariep

JOHANNESBURG. — Right-wing political parties and organisations have criticised the name changes of 12 dams, saying they confirmed that the Afrikaner's cultural heritage would not survive an African National Congress government.

Water Affairs and Forestry minister Kader Asmal announced changes to the 12 "most obtrusive" dam names at a press conference in Pretoria yesterday.

The H F Verwoerd Dam in the Free State has been renamed the Gariep Dam.

He said the government had avoided switching one political name for another.

"Although it was painful not to use the names of some historical figures we sought to avoid a triumphalist approach," Mr Asmal said.

An advisory committee of 16 assisted him in selecting the new names.

"None of the new names depict political leaders but are the names of rivers and places given by local communities.

"It was a wrench for me not to use names of people like Emily Hobhouse, Lilian Ngoyi and Albert Luthuli," he said.

Original names of South African landmarks had previously been "brutally shunted aside to give expression to the pretentions of our rulers. We shall not make that mistake again."

The new names of 11 other dams are:

Braam Raubenheimer Dam in the Eastern Transvaal becomes Kwena (North Sotho for crocodile).

Fanie Botha Dam (Northern Transvaal) becomes Tzaneen Dam.

Hans Strijdom Dam in the Northern Transvaal becomes Mokolo Dam.

Paul Sauer Dam in the Eastern Transvaal becomes Kouga (Khoi name of river on which the dam was built).

Charlie Malan Dam in the Eastern Cape becomes Impofu (Xhosa for the dam's original name, Elandsjacht).

Hudson Ntsanwisi Dam (name of a homeland leader) in the Eastern Transvaal becomes Nsami (river on which the dam was built).

Lake Mentz in the Eastern Transvaal becomes Darlington Dam (name of the village submerged by the dam).

Nokmokgomo Matlala Dam in the Eastern Transvaal becomes Arabie (dam's original name).

P K le Roux Dam in the Free State becomes Vanderkloof (its original name).

Sarel Hayward canal in the Free State becomes the Orange-Riet (its original name).

Jan Wassenaar Dam becomes Klaserie (name of river).

Freedom Front spokesman P Grobbelaar said the new names would not change the past and would only antagonise communities feeling that their interests were despised.

Conservative Party spokesman Marius Oosthuysen said the changes were part of the "revolution of radicals in an attempt to discredit the so-called apartheid people".

Mr Asmal said the old names "could hardly be expected to survive the transition, even amidst the most reconciliatory spirit in the world".

"I, for one, as a member of a group who was not allowed to overnight in the Free State for most of my life, would have enormous difficulty visiting Hendrik Verwoerd Dam."

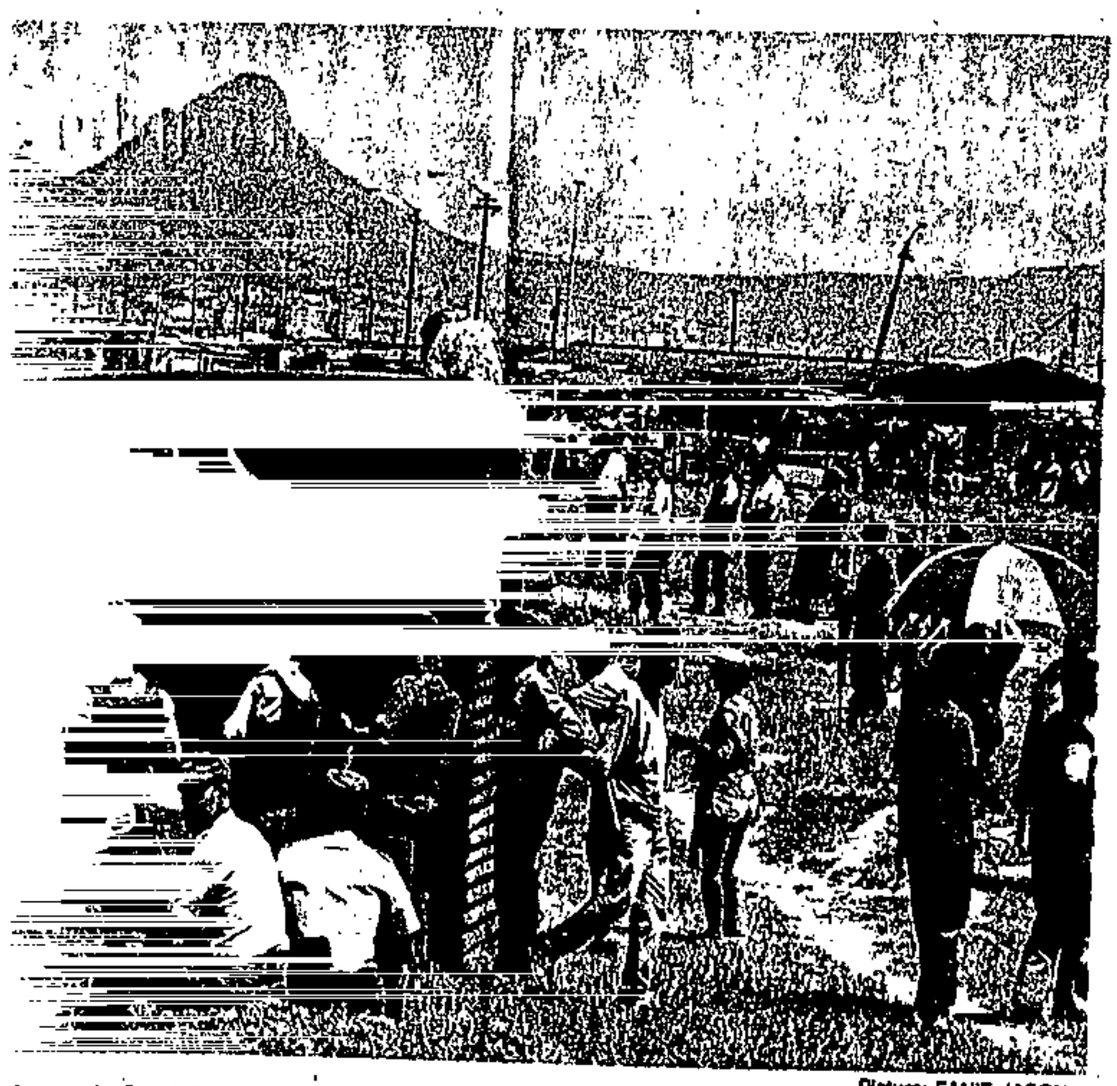
Mr Asmal said he foresaw no further name changes for the country's dams.

Squatters 'will resist with force' shack razing

307

ARG 4/11/94

City council action 'flouts agreement'



Picture: FANIE JASON.

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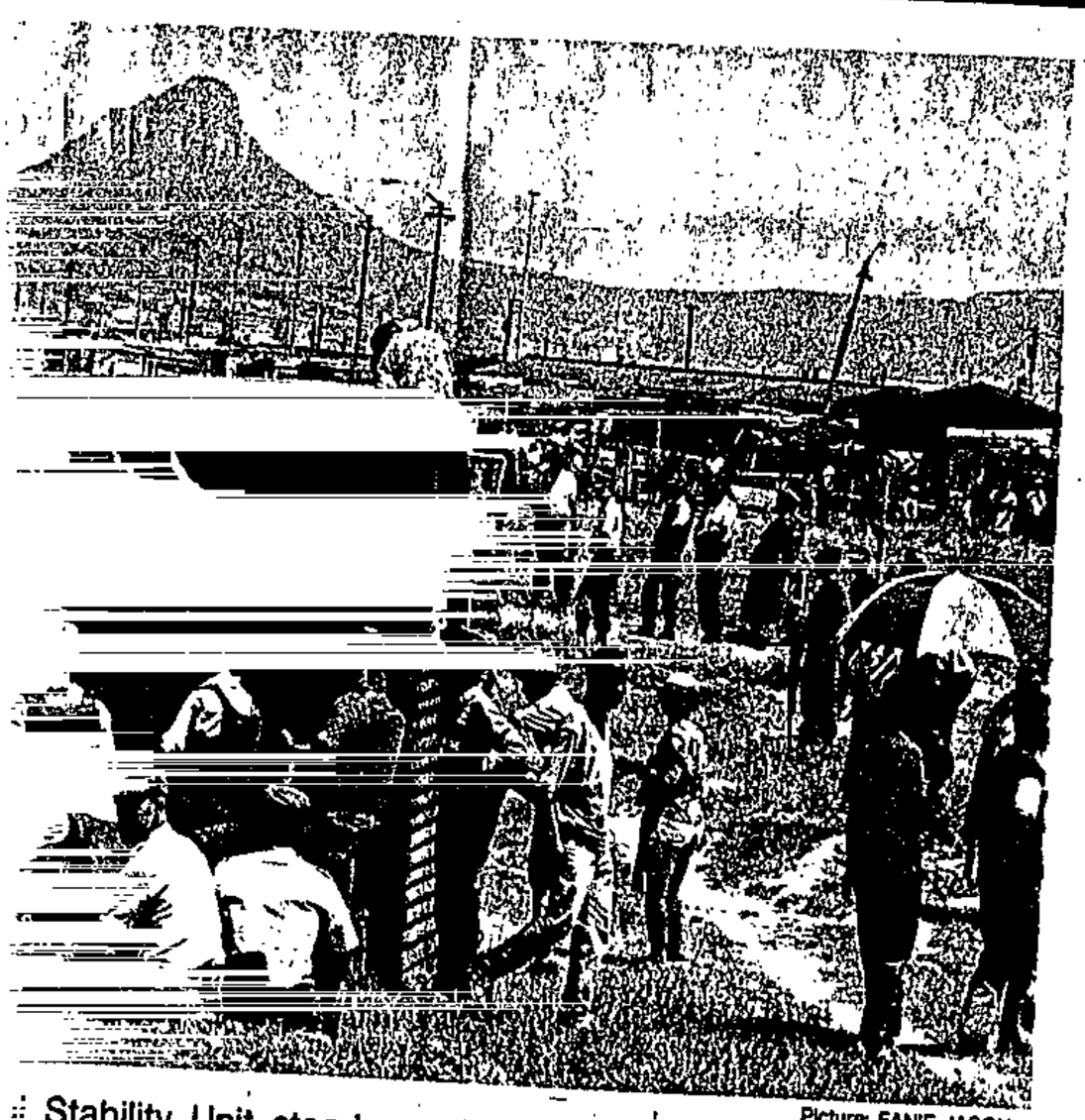
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Squatters threaten to put up a fight

Southeaster (suppl. to Sowetan)

BY SABATA NGCAI

SQUATTERS who occupied land next to Vanguard Drive in Langa refuse to move from the area and are threatening to "beat up" anyone who tries to demolish their shacks.

The land owners, Ikapa Town Council and the Cape Town City Council, unsuccessfully tried to demolish the shacks two weeks ago.

The squatters said they chased the council staff away.

Last week the two councils and the provincial minister of police threatened to demolish any unoccupied houses and new structures there.

Councils staff were welcome to enter the area, but they should "not dare touch" their shacks.

"If they try to demolish our shacks, we will beat them up thoroughly," Mr Mandlenkosi Mbhele warned.

Mr Mbhele said that when council staff came to destroy shacks, most people were at work. A few shacks were destroyed before the staff were stopped.

When residents returned they found their belongings were scattered about. 11/11 - 15/11/94

Mr Maxwell Malote, who was building his shack, said if the authorities did not want him there, they should provide alternative accommodation.

"I'll build my shack, no one will tear it down," he said.

Mr Mthetheleli Sikhotshi said when the white government was in power, it applied "the dirty tactics" of forced removals. (307)

"We say, never again, the land is ours and we will not move," Mr Sikhotshi said.

The squatters said they will "not be intimidated" by the council.

They occupied the land because they had no place to live, they said.

Most lived in the Langa migrant labour hostels. At least 30 of them slept on tables or the floor of a communal kitchen, they said.

Bed time was late every night because they had to wait until the kitchen was empty and had to wake up as early as 4am to make way for people preparing to leave for work.

CT 25/11/94 (300)

levelling the area to prevent flooding in winter.

There are no toilets in the camp and people are forced to relieve themselves in the nearby bush.

Women complain that the bush is a dangerous place, where many of them have been raped and assaulted.

Miss Mimi Mabaso has a broken leg set in plaster. She was dragged into the bush last month by a man who wanted to rape her. She fell into a hole and broke her leg while struggling to break free.

The camp has no water. People have to walk quite some distance to queue at the one tap which services more than 5 000 people.

A group of women said the situation was painful and difficult because water "is one of the necessities of life".

"We have to carry buckets of water all day for washing, drinking and cooking," a woman complained.

"The water gets finished quickly and then I have to start all over again."

There is no clinic or hospital near the camp. The closest medical assistance is at the Hanover Park Day Hospital.

Civic member Miss

Photos: Roger Sedres

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Squatter camp hell

Southern Star (Suppl. to South)

BY SABATA NGCAI

LIFE in squatter camps is hell. The squalid conditions in which the people live make them feel insecure and less than human.

Squatter residents say they are treated with indignity, contempt and arrogance by people "who have the whole world in their hands".

The camps are characterised by a high crime rate, poverty, no infrastructure and a scarcity of water. Samora Machel squatter camp near Philippi is no exception.

Poverty and lack of accommodation has forced the hundreds of residents there to cut down the bush and build "homes".

The camp is isolated, shabby and miserable. From a distance it doesn't look anything like a human settlement, yet people are living there.

The camp is seven years old. It has about 735 shacks, each housing six to 10 people.

The area has become a dumping ground. Rubble removal trucks dump their waste there and unemployed residents clean the bricks for resale or for use in

Cynthia Maku said if elderly people couldn't afford transport to the hospital they had to stay in their shacks and endure the pain.

"People are really suffering here, and we all share in their terrible pain," Miss Maku said.

(307)

She said the civic has approached the South African Christian Organisation Leadership Assembly with a request for at least a clinic in the area two or three times a week.

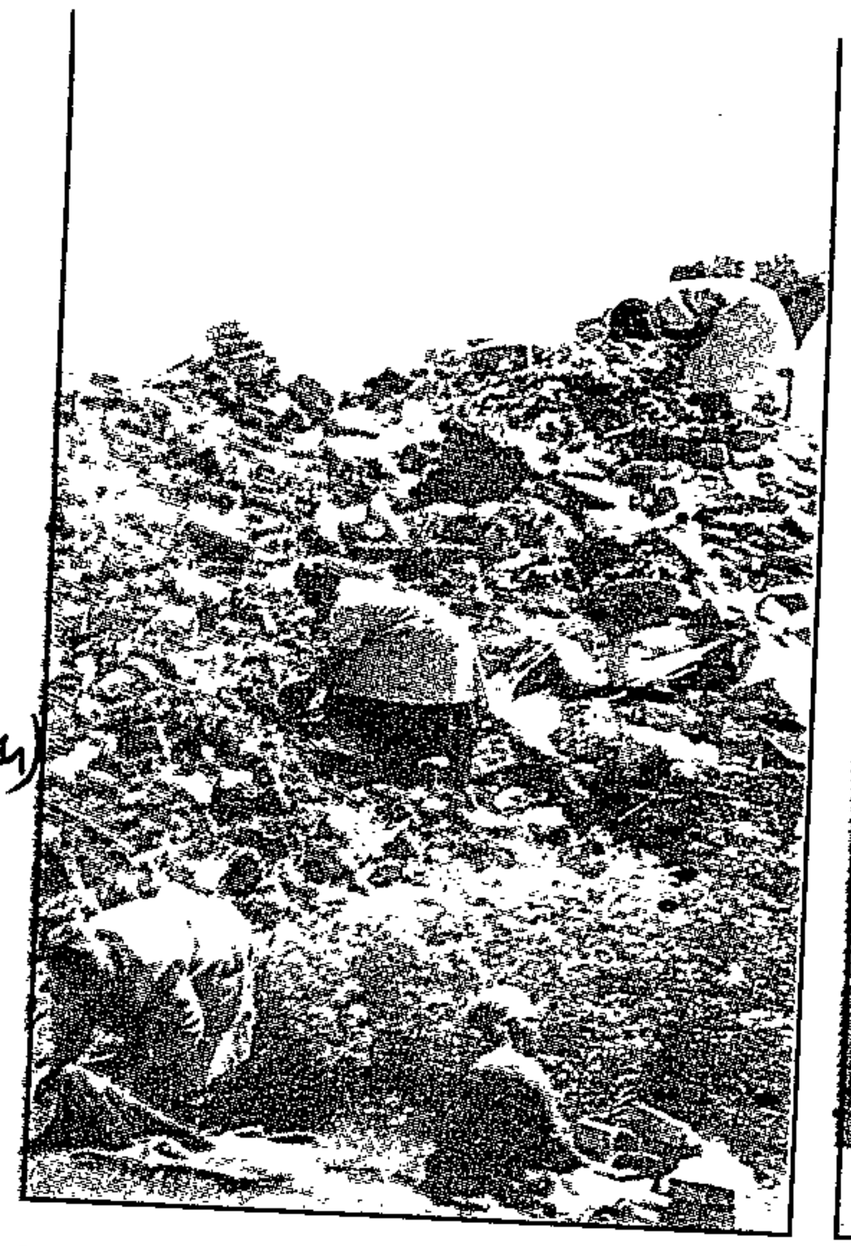
Miss Maku said at present a mobile clinic comes once a month and attends only to children.

Shebeens are a popular and easy way to make money in the area. Some residents complain about the many stabbings and assaults when people are drunk, especially at weekends.

Residents with cars shoulder the burden of rushing the injured people to hospital.

Mr Wandile Nkwele said he is often woken in the middle of the night by requests to help people.

"I am one of the few people in the area who owns a car, so I feel duty bound to help when a need arises," he said.







day, November 25 1994 ★

Pensions backlog not cleared

(300)

CT 25/11/94

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A HUGE injection of cash to pay staff to work overtime to meet the three-month backlog in pension payouts in the Cape has not succeeded in meeting the crisis.

A quarter of those whose payouts were delayed when the backlog was exposed have still not received their money.

A month ago Health and Social Services Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool announced staff would work overtime to enable the 17 747 pensioners across the former Cape Province to get their money.

Mr Rasool said yesterday a departmental probe had revealed that payments to social workers at between 45 and 50 organisations were a month in arrears.

Two weeks

Most of the pensioners effected are coloured people and 4 604 cheques are still outstanding with the biggest demand coming from Goodwood (black areas) Worcester, Port Elizabeth, Paarl, George, Bellville and East London.

Staff had issued 12 091 cheques in the past two weeks and he had been assured that another 5 234 would be available at post offices within two weeks.

About 20% of subsidies to old age day care centres were outstanding. He hoped to bring all subsidies up to date by December 15.

Refering to Cape Times reports on the hardship facing pensioners Mr Rasool said: "As painful as it may have been, the press played a vital role in spurring the state into action — without your reports this situation would have become accepted as the norm."

Squatter shacks demolished

APLF 30/11/94 (307)

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

HUNDREDS of city council workers, escorted by heavily armed police and soldiers, moved into the Jakkalsvlei Canal squatter camp near Langa early today and began demolishing more than 500 shacks.

Last week the Ikapa Town Council and the city council distributed pamphlets in the area warning residents that their shacks would be demolished in terms of a Supreme Court eviction order.

But a squatter spokesman, Fred Mafimini, said their organisation, Western Cape United Squatters Association (Wecusa), had held talks with council officials yesterday and had been told the shacks would be destroyed only after all talks had ended and alternative accommodation had been found.

"Arthur Wienburg told us at the meeting that more talks were necessary before any action would be taken, but they have gone against their own words.

"Look what's happening now," Mr Mafimini said, pointing to the hundreds of policemen and workers moving into the camp.

The joint operation began about 6am when more than 300 policemen, 50 soldiers and about 200 council workers assembled on the Bonteheuwel side of Vanguard Drive.

The squatters emerged from their shacks and took up positions along the canal and at a barricade at the Washington Drive entrance to the camp.

At 6.45am helmeted police carrying shields and batons led the council workers into the camp while a police helicopter circled overhead.

At 7.15am the first shack was demolished and although some of the owners initially tried to resist the destruction of their homes further down the row other residents were emptying their shacks as council workers moved closer.

A crying shack dweller Xolani Mestile said: "For all these years we have been fighting apartheid and forced removals but it seems that nothing has changed.

"We voted a new government into power but they are treating us the same as the old apartheid government did."

● Pictures: page 3

Squatters threaten to rebuild

Staff Reporter (307)

SQUATTERS whose shacks were demolished by the City Council yesterday have threatened to rebuild them again and again. CT 1/12/94

Council workers escorted by police and soldiers demolished hundreds of shacks in the Jakkalsvlei Canal squatter camp, which borders on Langa.

The land was needed for development, exco chairman Mr Arthur Wienburg said.

The squatters were told to go back to their previous homes and seek to resolve their housing needs through the Serviced Land Project (SLP) and other initiatives.

Part of the land on which shacks were built, in a corner between Vanguard Drive and the N2, is under City Council jurisdiction while another part falls under the authority of iKapa commissioner Mr Wallace Mgoqi, who has declined to demolish shacks on that land.

It is believed many of the squatters whose homes were broken down rebuilt on the iKapa land. They have threatened to rebuild until they are given alternate serviced land.

Earlier this week, protesting women held up their babies whom they said would lose the shelters over their heads if their homes were demolished.

● No estimate could be obtained late yesterday from the council of how many of the approximately 300 structures had been demolished.

'Send squatters back to where they came from'

Sowetan 2/12 - 6/12/94

By Alexandra Zavis

EARLY on Tuesday morning residents of the informal settlement on the outskirts of Langa built a stone barricade and armed themselves with sticks, metal bars, tools and knives.

They were preparing to resist their threatened forced removal from the site they have occupied since October.

Although the expected bulldozers did not arrive, the Cape Town City Council reserves the right to take action against them.

The Ikapa and Cape Town city councils gave them until Monday to move. Both councils have court interdicts to force them off the land.

Mr Fred Masimini, a member of the Western Cape United Squatter Associations (Wecusa) committee in the informal settlement, said the residents had been chased away from their previous homes in the backyards of Langa.

"They chased us here. Now they send the City Council to tell us to go back to the backyards because they want the houses for their children," Masimini said.

Some protestors complained that they had been forced to pay exorbitant rents in Langa while their landlords were on a rent boycott.

Others said they had been evicted when their landlords wanted to expand their houses.

One woman, Ms Letitia Williams, said her house had been burned down.

"We are not fighting anybody, but we are not going to let them destroy our houses without giving us another place to stay," Masimini said.

However, residents on both the Bonteheuwel and the Langa sides of the settlement as well as the Epping business community are adamant that the squatters must go, according to the Ikapa Town Clerk, Mr Deon Adriaanse. (307)

"That piece of land is earmarked to be developed into residential housing, which cannot happen while the squatters are there," he said.

"It is also a health hazard to those people and to those staying around it because there are no services at the site. The people are using the canal for household water and as a refuse dump."

Nevertheless, Ikapa has decided not to apply its interdict.

"We feel that just to remove people from that particular site won't solve the problem, because where will they go? We don't have any vacant land in our area of jurisdiction," Adriaanse said.

Cape Town City Council does not share this view.

"They can go back where they came from," said Councillor Neil Ross, chairperson of the Housing Committee.

"They are not from the Transkei. They were living in over-crowded conditions, sure, but they were living somewhere before.

"This is a classic case of queue-jumping.

"The anger from the community in Langa — from people in fact living in backyard shacks in incredibly bad circumstances — who feel these people are getting a better deal, is enormous.

"We reserve our right to do what we intend to do."



READY TO RESIST: Women from the informal settlement near Langa prepare to ward off the bulldozers

Demolitions at squatter camp continue

ARG 1/12/94

307

Municipal Staff

CAPE TOWN City Council workers continued demolishing shacks — erected on city council land — at the Jakkalsvlei Canal squatter camp today.

Hundreds of heavily armed policemen again escorted the workers into the camp and kept a watchful eye on the proceedings.

Unlike yesterday — when residents tried to resist attempts by the workers to destroy their homes and police fired teargas to disperse them — the residents today stood by passively and watched their shacks go down.

The squatters were being evicted in terms of a Supreme Court order obtained by the council to have the people removed from land under its control.

Enoch Madywabe, secretary of the Western Cape United Squatters' Association (Wecusa) said the organisation would try to meet city council executive committee chairman Arthur Wienburg to discuss the issue.

Demolition of shacks sparks urgent meeting

(307)

Municipal Reporter

THE demolition of shacks on city council land in Langa today sparked off an urgent meeting of the non-statutory caucus of the Cape Metropolitan Negotiating Forum.

ARG 7/12/94

Non-statutory caucus spokesman Mzukisi Gaba said the area looked like "a battleground" this morning as city council "scab labour" demolished shacks and loaded trucks.

He described the situation as very grave, coming as it did on the eve of the signing of an agreement which will radically alter local government in the Cape Metropolitan area.

The formal signing ceremony to ratify the agreement on local government transition begins at a meeting of the Cape Metropolitan Negotiating Forum tonight.

An important part of the agreement is the lists of names of people who will be appointed to serve on transitional structures until municipal elections are held, probably in October next year.

Because the forum is made up of 75 organisations, the signing ceremony will continue tomorrow.

● See page 29

Govt down to 'talking lobbies'

(307)

By CHRIS BATEMAN

CT 7/12/94

NON-GOVERNMENTAL organisations (NGOs) and their "constant insistence" on being consulted about every aspect of government was fast reducing government to "mere talking lobbies".

This was said yesterday by Mr Peter Marais, Western Cape Local Government and Development Planning Minister, in response to allegations by the Surplus People's Project (SPP) that he intended to marginalise squatters in next year's elections.

Accusing Mr Marais of racism, the SPP said he was seeking loopholes to disqualify people "not ordinarily resident" from the franchise. They criticised him for a comment that voter eligibility would have to be examined "very, very carefully".

Yesterday Mr Marais said: "I reject the defamatory allegation of racism — of course squatters of all races may vote . . . even if they refuse to contribute to municipal coffers," he said.

City council demolition team tears down shacks

(307)

ARGT 8/12/94

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

A CITY council demolition team backed up by police moved into the Jakkalvlei Canal squatter area again to demolish shacks that have sprung up since the squatters were evicted last week.

Yesterday about 40 dwellings were demolished on council-owned land between Langa township and Vanguard Drive.

The operation followed last week's demolition of more than 500 shacks. Last week's action was based on a court order obtained on November 18, preventing people from squatting on the land.

It is believed many of the shacks that were taken down yesterday belonged to families and other residents who had rebuilt their houses after last week's raid.

Council housing committee chairman Neil Ross said people had to return to the backyards they came from before they settled in the Jakkalsvlei Canal area.

"The key issue at stake here is that people who invade land are queue-jumping and not honouring the agreements reached as part of the service land project."

If the council did nothing against illegal squatters it would encourage the homeless to ignore previous agreements, he said.

Fumanekile Booi, African National Congress provincial executive committee member, said the squatters were prepared to leave the area, but had nowhere else to go.

Mr Booi said some community members had alleged police had dragged them out of their shacks before the demolition teams moved in.

Police spokesman Ben Theron said the 130 policemen were there to maintain order and not to break down people's houses.

Meanwhile, the non-statutory caucus of the Cape Metropolitan Negotiating Forum held an urgent meeting to discuss the demolition of the shacks.

Spokesman Mukisi Gaba said the area looked like a "battleground" as "scab labour" was used to demolish shacks and load trucks.

He described the situation as very grave, coming as it did on the eve of the signing of an agreement which would radically alter local government in the Cape metropole.

Mr Ross hoped the issue would have no effect on the forum as it had "nothing to do with the forum".

He would, however, be happy to discuss the issue at the forum.

SQUATTERS — CAPE

1995

School of Economics

Elgin squatters' last chance to go voluntarily

CT 2/2/95 (307)

By CHRIS BATEMAN

SOME 400 squatters occupying an Elgin Forest township development near Grabouw face removal by court interdict this morning – unless an 11th-hour appeal by senior provincial officials succeeds overnight.

Western Cape Housing Minister Mr Gerald Morkel said his full cabinet agreed to bring the interdict yesterday after a week of fruitless wrangling with the squatters which was costing R15 000 a day in development delays.

Mr Morkel said residents to whom the sites were allocated knew they would eventually pay for the delays and were upset and angry with the squatters.

"We cannot allow bloodshed, and every effort will be made to deal with this in a humanitarian way without force – if the interdict is granted we'll show it to them first and ask them to comply," he said.

Mr Morkel said it was essential to protect the squatters from the "angry" people to whom sites had been allocated. He cited President Nelson Mandela's statement last year that land occupations would not be tolerated.

A group of about 80 Grabouw residents travelled to Cape Town earlier yesterday for a peaceful picket of the Western Cape legislative building in Wale Street.

Mr Morkel dispatched his deputy director of urban development, Mr Wessel Hoffman, to Grabouw to speak to the squatters and Grabouw's Transitional Local Council, which has asked Premier Hernus Kriel to intervene "urgently".

R1,5n boost for squatter camp

BD 6/2/95

EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — The Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton, Cape Town, would get a R1,5bn housing and infrastructure shot in the arm, it was announced last week.

The project, involving big business, government and the community, is driven by a planning forum which includes the Development Action Group, Milnerton Municipality and Ratepayers' Association, Telkom — which owns the land — private developers and squatters.

The project would provide formal homes, factories, offices and shops, including a R50m shopping centre.

The six-year project would be facilitated by a Rabie Cavcor consortium. The residential phase involved building about 1 000 social houses and 1 500 low- to middle-income houses.

Key players in the industrial development of the project were Old Mutual, Anglo American Property Service, Metropolitan Life, Absa, Southern Life and Condev Cape.

Bulk services would be constructed by Murray & Roberts Construction.

More than 60 interest groups were involved in planning, negotitation and discussion for the development of 240ha on the Marconi Beam site.

Development Action Group spokesman Alistair Rendell said 25ha had been set aside as part of a general upliftment programme.

Facilities would include a school, crèches and small businesses.

Grabouw squatters cost CPA thousands each day

(307) CT 7/2/95

By EUNICE RIDER

GRABOUW'S squatters are costing the Cape Provincial Administration tens of thousands of rands by refusing to vacate a site and service area under development.

Town Clerk Mr Valdor Dudley said yesterday developers were demanding between R15 000 and R20 000 for each day their informal housing project at Elgin Forest was delayed.

He said it was unlikely that the 400 squatters occupying the partially-developed area would move until the outcome of a Supreme Court action brought by the CPA, set to begin this month.

He said the massive 1 300-plot development, which is "90% complete" would have been ready for occupation by the end of March and end of May in the two final development phases.

Two weeks ago the illegal squatters stoned cars and set up burning barricades in roads to protest the possibility of being forcibly removed from the earmarked land they are occupying.

Kriel seeks eviction order

REGIONAL Premier Hernus Kriel yesterday launched another bid in the Supreme Court to evict hundreds of squatters occupying land near Grabouw, near Cape Town. (307)

The squatters are occupying part of the Elgin Forest Reserve farm. CT 17/2/95

Pan Africanist Congress president Mr Clarence Makwetu and a large number of squatters are attended the hearing. — Sapa

Mayor slams squatting (307

THE mayor of Matatiele in the Eastern Cape, Mr Libby Seroux, has slammed the occupation of municipal land by squatters. Sowetan 3/1/95

Seroux said it was agreed that about 110 housing sites be provided in Jukelelo township, with plans for a further 100.

However, squatters had been bussed into the area since Saturday and the number had reached 2 000 by yesterday morning.

Seroux said his council would not allow the move, which he said was a political ploy by some people who want to take control of the town.

Airport land for use by squatters

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS will be allowed to use 4,3ha of airport land bordering Modderdam Road for three years.

This follows an agreement between the Airports Company and the ANC.

The company will install a piped water supply and fences, and upgrade the site.

Mr Hennie Taljaard, general manager of D F Malan Airport, said the agreement had been reached with the ANC to formalise the position of 23 squatter families who had been occupying the land for about 20 years.

"They will be moved to permanent housing in three years."

Mr Taljaard said the plan to upgrade the site included clearing the land of refuse and bush.

The company was paying the squatters R5 per bag to clear the area of refuse.

Colesburg to evict squatters

ET pg 11/95
(307)

COLESBURG — The Colesburg Transitional Local Council has been granted an eviction order against 15 illegal squatters occupying municipal land there.

A council spokesman said the squatters would be told of the order. If they failed to comply they would be removed by force next week.

Marconi Beam begins again

CT. 10/1/95 (307)

Man dies as shacks blaze

By DALE GRANGER

AS some Marconi Beam squatters worked frantically last night to rebuild shacks destroyed in a fire earlier in the day, the poorest of them waited for help, huddled under blankets as the south-easter whistled through the camp.

One man died in the fire which destroyed about 500 shacks.

Ms Haizel Bashaman, 36, sat with her aunt, Ms Tandi Ntaka, 46, and five children keeping an eye on what was left of their belongings.

She said the family, like most, had declined the offer of shelter in nearby halls as they wanted to be close to their belongings.

Mr Jackson Yafele, chairman of the Marconi Beam Development Committee Forum, said it was impossible to estimate how many were still without shelter.

Those who are employed had managed to rebuild their shacks with the help of their companies but the unemployed were "suffering".

Mr Graham Phippen, executive director of Leadership South, said his team would be working through the night to erect two tents donated by Caltex.

The Milnerton Fire Brigade had collected clothing and donated lights to help relief workers.

The Red Cross was handing out food parcels. Eskom had provided generators.

Mr Phippen said the Milnerton Municipality had opened a Standard Bank account for donations to aid relief work and had estimated that R250 000 was needed for "start up kits".

Race-horse owner and breeder Ms Loretta Krein, of Table View, rallied her workers at her Atlantis Farm to cook several pots of hot soup.

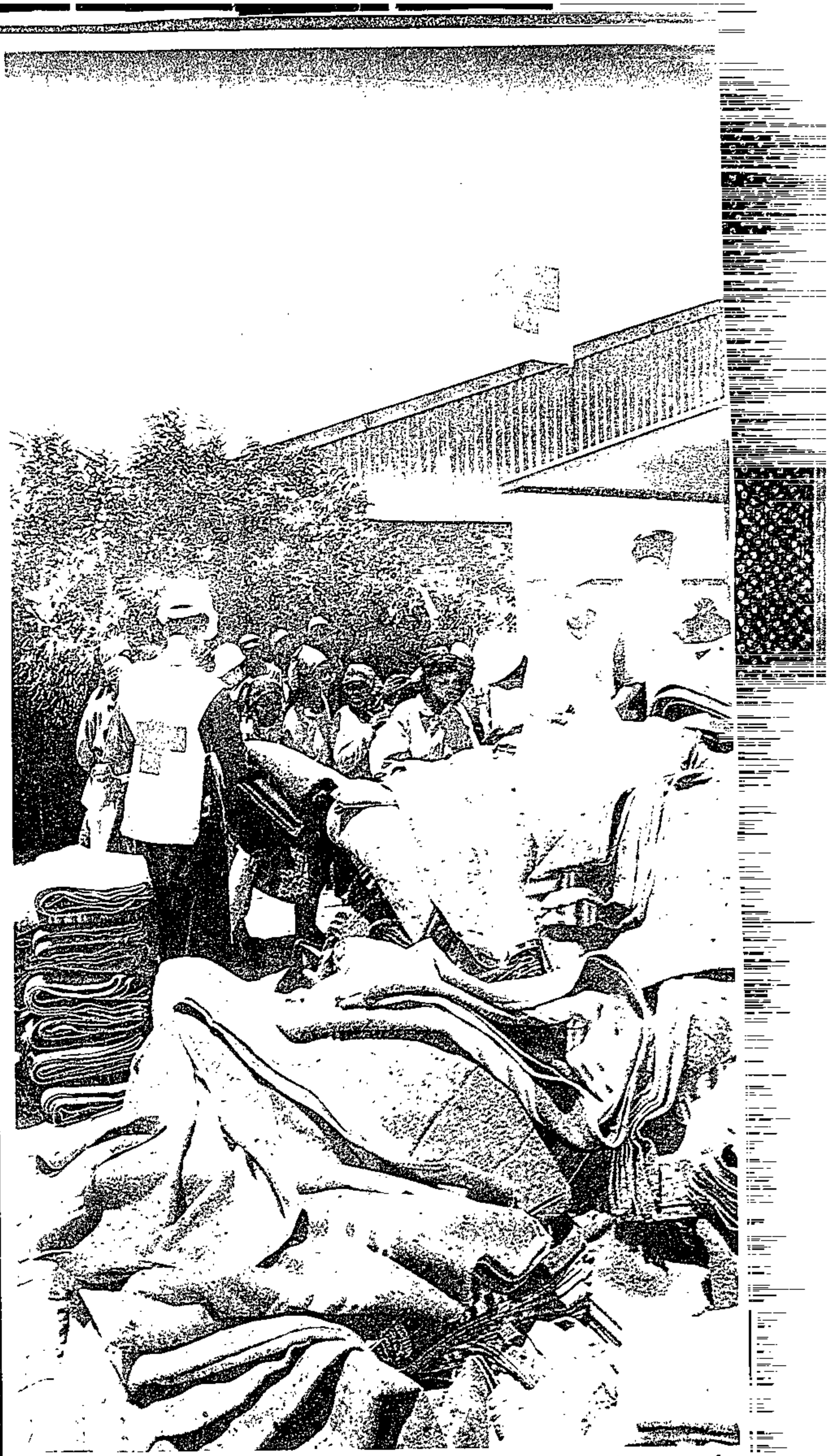
Mr Peter Marais, Acting Minister of Housing, visited the site at the request of the premier, Mr Hernus Kriel.

Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber met yesterday with squatter camp and other community leaders.

He said the Defence Force had agreed to make up to 500 tents available, which would be erected on vacant land adjacent to Marconi Beam. Erection will begin early today.

• The Standard Bank account number for donations is: (Branch number) 02650982 and 078283051.





THERE WHEN NEEDED . . . The Red Cross was on site within hours of the Marconi Beam blaze (above), handing out blankets and food parcels to destitute residents. **LEFT:** Ms Haizel Bashaman, 36, second from left, her aunt, Ms Tandi Ntaka, 46, left, and her five children braved chilly winds which whistled through the squatter camp last night. Pictures: CLIVE

AR6 10/02/95 (30)

sorrow and disillusionment written all over her face.

Mrs Dikana, who was a domestic worker before a car accident put her off work the whole of last year, also has a one-year-old daughter to care for.

Yesterday's disaster robbed Jackson Yafele, 54, of his shack.

"I was nearly overpowered by the smoke," he said.

He was asleep when the fire started and only managed to save a jacket, two trousers and a blanket.

Like so many of his neighbours, he is unemployed and doesn't know how he will rebuild his shack.

Mr Yafele says to prevent further fires in the camp the government must build houses in Marconi Beam.

None was as angry as William Papier who lost R4 000 in life savings and more than R6 000 in property.

"I don't like the way we are living," he said.



HELPING HAND: SA Red Cross Society workers hand out food to people who lost everything in the blaze.

in trying to get sponsors to donate items such as tents.

People wishing to help can deposit donations into the Milnerton Municipality Disaster Fund, Milnerton Standard Bank account number 078283051, bank code 02650982.

20 000 gift to Marconi squatters

Staff Reporter

THE Round Table has kicked off a campaign to destitute residents in the devastated Marconi squatter camp by donating R20 000.

pokesman for the Western e Round Table, Geoff ckbeard, said the money left over from last year's d disaster campaign.

As soon as we heard the orts yesterday morning t the fire we decided to involved," he said.

housands of people were homeless when a fire pt through the camp near merton early yesterday, roying about 600 shacks.

r Blackbeard said the d Table wanted to help erton Municipality raise R200 000.

Mr Blackbeard said the Round Table would also help

In civvies but ang

The emblem of the South African Red Cross Society is always visible in times of emergency with society staff and volunteers rushing to aid victims of fires, violence and floods. Staff Reporter ADELE BALETA spent a day at the society's Wynberg headquarters and found that the work extends beyond disaster relief.

THE South African Red Cross Society puts out fires of distress across the Peninsula on an ongoing basis.

Red Cross staff and volunteers who were on standby as a matter of course, began mobilising at 4am yesterday to help feed and clothe at least 2 500 people left homeless by a fire that swept through the Marconi Beam informal settlement near Milnerton.

Volunteers and fieldworkers were also busy assessing fire damage in Nyanga where over 138 shacks were razed to the ground leaving over 200 people homeless.

Soup had to be distributed, blankets handed out, food parcels packed and distributed and contact made with organisations and local authorities.

All of these exercises are co-ordinated from the nerve centre of the Cape regional office in Wynberg.

Spending a day at the Society' headquarters is like being inside an autoteller machine — the faster the money and other donations come in the quicker it gets pumped out.

"I have some crutches to give away. Who can I speak to?" asks a caller.

The society's public relations officer and fundraiser Karin Comer thanks the caller and makes a plan to collect the crutches on her way home from work.

At the same time she points out chairs to social workers from the Tembalethu High School for the Disabled who have come from Guguletu to get donations for a party. They sit and wait.

"The phone never stops ringing, either with people asking for help or offering to help," Mrs Comer says.

Down the passage Colleen Jacob is busy with the society's Home Based Care Project which aims to care for sick people including Aids patients in their own homes.

A guided tour to the back of the Wynberg building reveals another hive of activity.

Volunteers ladle egg powder into packets for food parcels containing other basic nutritional items. Some parcels get snapped up immediately by increasingly long queues of refugees from the violence in our own backyard or from as far afield as Rwanda.

Americans Aaron Olsen, 20, and Jason Warren, 19, are in South Africa "on mission".

They help pack the parcels for victims of violence, shack fires, floods and for indigent families.

A basic parcel contains egg powder, samp, maize meal, tea, sugar, milk powder and rice.

Regular volunteer Valencia Lotriet, 76, says: "We add other goods such as soap powder and peanut butter. It depends on what contributions we get."

Volunteers were called in over New Year to help the skeleton staff distribute 400 crates of milk donated by Homestead Dairies.

Mrs Comer says: "About 40 people a day queue on our doorstep waiting for food. Since the influx of foreign refugees the demand is much higher."

Clutching blankets and a parcel of food, Zairean Deno Francisio, 22, and Angolan Geremia Kende Pedro, 25, say they came to South Africa to find work and prosperity.

"We have come from nothing and we have nothing," says Mr Francisio. His mother who lives in Angola has stopped working since her leg was amputated as a result of a war wound. Both Mr Pedro's parents died in Angola's civil strife.

Red Cross fieldworkers who come in and out of the building are helping to set up sewing projects and gardening schemes with the unemployed. A fire station for Harare in Khayelitsha is also

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507

Community fire units urged

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

COMMUNITY fire-fighting units should be set up in squatter areas to prevent fires from devastating informal settlements such as Marconi Beam in Milnerton where it will cost an estimated R250 000 to rebuild what was lost.

This was the view of provincial local government minister Peter Marais, who visited Marconi Beam yesterday after about 2 500 people lost their homes in a fire which razed at least half of the settlement early on Monday.

"Unless we learn something from each fire, there will be no progress in this regard," he said.

Mr Marais's remarks follow a spate of shack fires in the Peninsula, the worst of which was the Marconi Beam fire yesterday which destroyed 600 shacks.

Also yesterday, more than 500 people were left homeless in Nyanga when a fire razed 130 shacks.

The Marconi Beam fire was termed a civil emergency by Milnerton town clerk Peter Gerber who convened the first emergency meeting to deal with the crisis about 3am yesterday. More meetings were planned throughout the day.

The fire toll across the Peninsula has been severe:

● In late November, two fires hit homes of about 90 families in Langa and 22 shack dwellers in Guguletu.

● More than 450 people were made homeless after a fire destroyed 137 shacks in Wellington in early December.

● On Christmas day, a fire gutted the homes of 200 families living in shacks and blocks of flats in Langa.

● Three days later, in Khayelitsha, 15 shacks were destroyed and a man and a child burned to death.

One person died in the Marconi Beam fire — a fact described as a "miracle" by municipal employees.

Mr Marais, who visited Marconi Beam in his capacity as acting provincial housing minister, cut short his leave to view the devastation which deprived 600 families of all their possessions.

He was accompanied by Milnerton mayor Rod Hulley, Mr Gerber and town engineer David Brook.

They took a walk through the settlement which by 2pm was a hive of activity as residents started to rebuild their shacks amid swirling dust and ash in the strong south-easter.

Mr Marais promised financial help for the families of Marconi Beam, saying "the principle of giving has already been accepted".

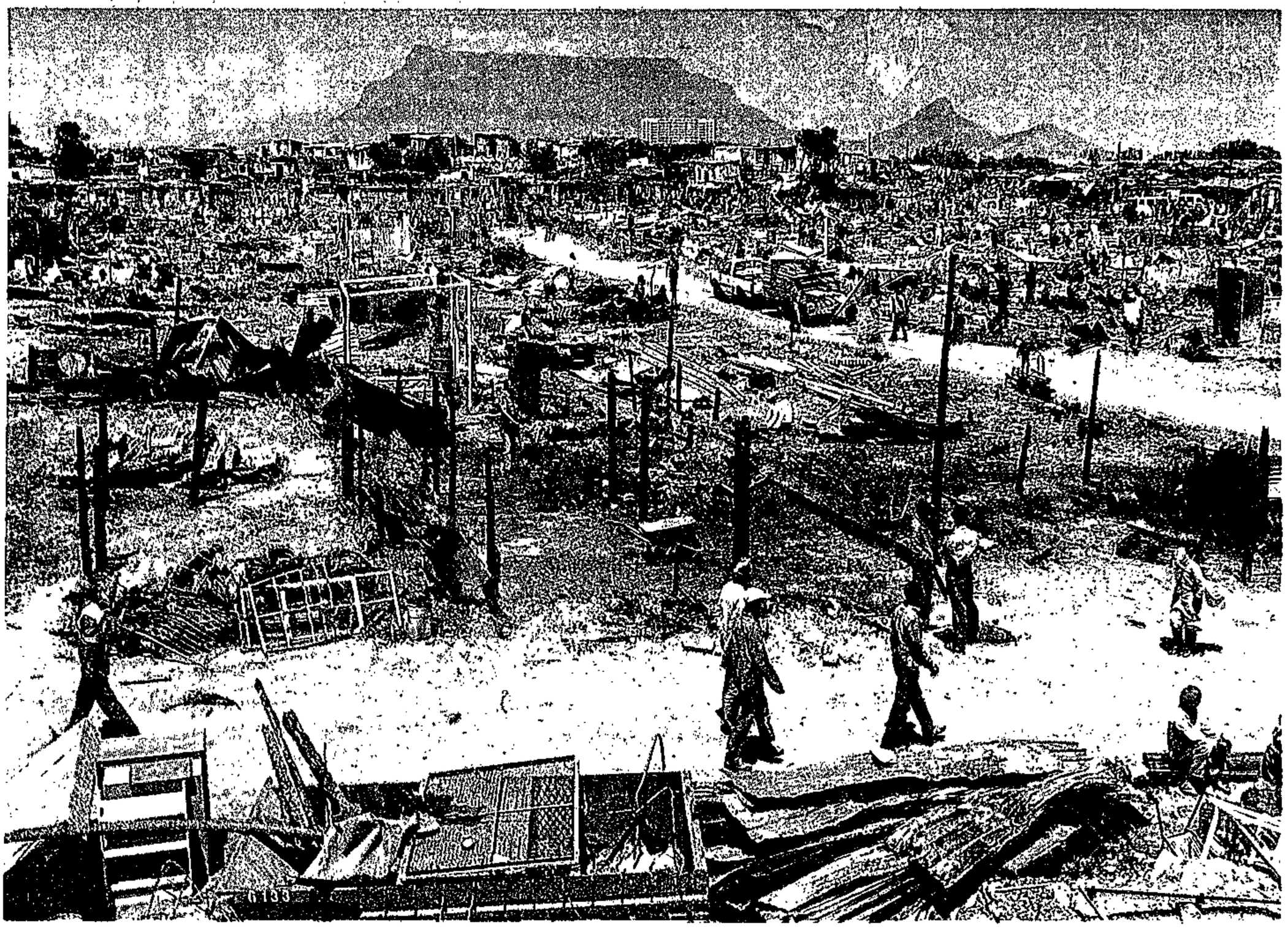
The fire is the fifth to have struck the community in recent months — a factor which enabled the municipality of Milnerton to respond quickly to the crisis.



SOUP KITCHEN: About 2 500 people, who were left homeless after the fire, were given emergency meals by the SA Red Cross Society yesterday.

ARG 10/01/95

(307)



Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

)EVASTATION: Table Mountain looms behind the blackened ruins of the 600 shacks which were burned down at Marconi Beam informal settlement in Milnerton yesterday.

Marconi squatters have lost count of disasters

Miraculously, the little pri-
ıary school and the commu-
ity hall were spared the
lames, but everything else
ent in its path, with just
lackened, twisted metal
om bedsteads, chairs, and
uilding frames left behind.

Arrangements to house the
omeless in tents on the Theo
larais sports field were be-
ıg made, but many shack
wellers were hard at work
utting up shelters, some with
ıe assistance of their em-
loyers.

Many were reluctant to
ave the area in case some-
ody else rebuilt on their
atch of land.

Marconi Beam, which was serviced with standpipes and toilets for about 400 shacks, houses about 1 200 families, putting the density at 140 units per hectare.

Although fire hydrants were positioned in the community, the strong wind and density made it difficult for firefighters to control the flames and they battled for three hours to bring it under control.

The municipality had as its immediate short-term objectives to get families under cover, provide emergency food and basic building materials.

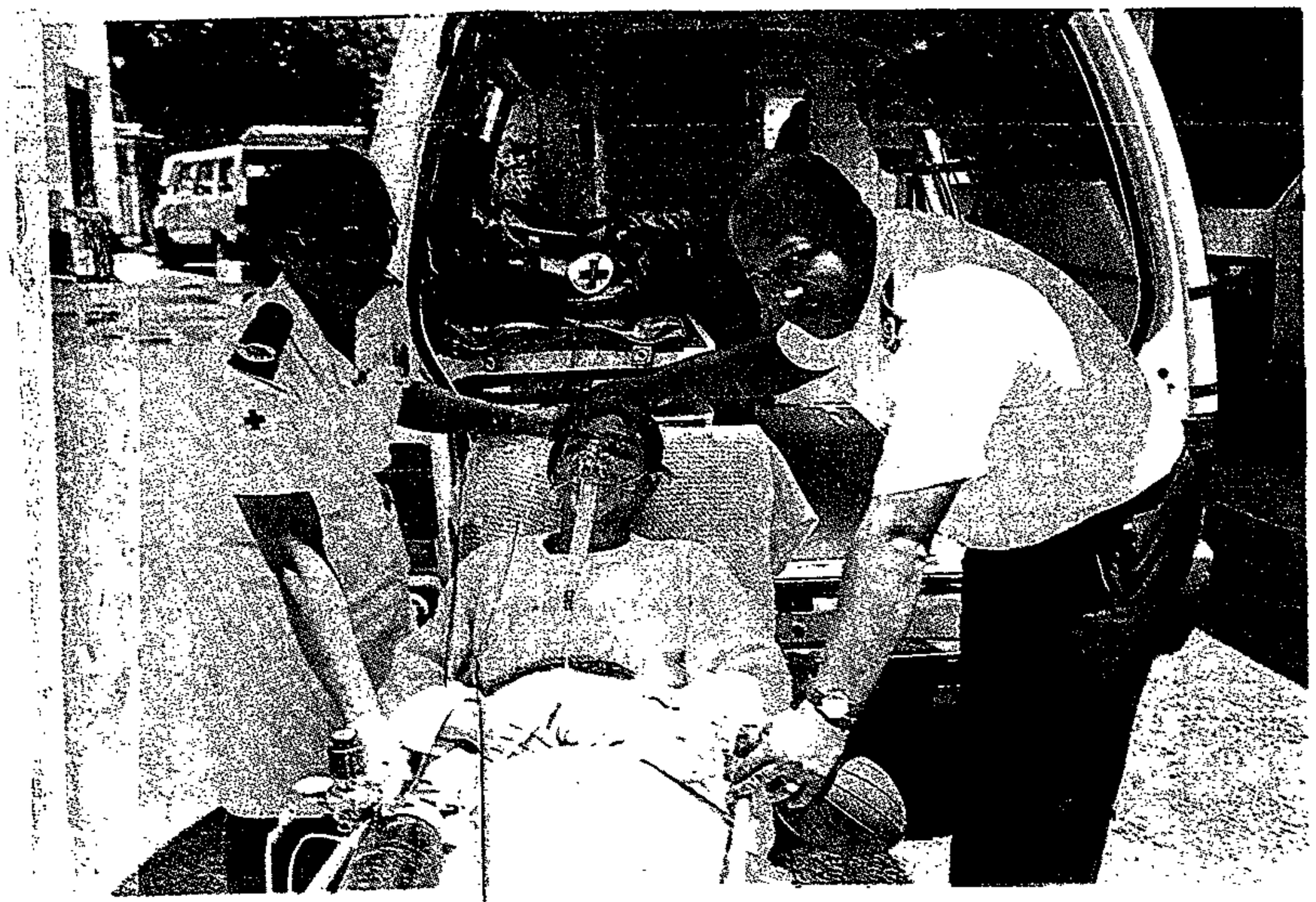
But longer term needs remain, with many families having lost all their possessions and money in the blaze.

Cash donations can be made to the Standard Bank, Milnerton branch in account number 078283051, branch number 02650982.

Drop-off points for blankets, clothing, mattresses, food and building materials include the police, the fire station, or municipal works yard, all of them in Koeberg Road.

The Red Cross House in Broad Road, Wynberg, and St John Ambulance, Darling Street, Cape Town, also have collection points.

jels of mercy every one



Picture: ADELE BALETA, The Argus.

RECEIVING END: Non-uniformed South African Red Cross Society volunteer Musligal Kahn acts as a patient while uniformed volunteers Gertrude Mouton and Stephen Langley, who both have full time jobs, show what they do in their spare time.

being planned.

Deline Van Boom co-ordinates the voluntary services department which includes uniformed and non-uniformed volunteers who are involved in disaster relief, welfare and assisting the destitute.

Stephen Langley and Gertrude Mouton enter her office looking pale and tired but smiling nevertheless.

They have just returned to base after transporting an Aids patient who is in the terminal stages of the disease to St Luke's Hospice.

They are uniformed volunteers and first aiders who are qualified to drive an ambulance. They received the Red Cross call after having come off night duty.

Mr Langley is responsible for dispatching newspapers and Mrs Mouton is employed as a housekeeper at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Mr Langley says: "I have being doing this for years and will continue to as long as I can. It gives me a good feeling to help others."

Rylands High School matriculant Musiligal Kahn who "is hanging around to see if there is anything to be done" is part of a project for the elderly.

She and a group of peers visit old people at Apricot House in Bonteheuwal and supply them with wool and other materials for handcrafts.

"Helping others has given me confidence and taught me how to communicate. It's nice to feel that people look up to you," Ms Kahn says.

Deline Van Boom says there are 500 volu nteers who form the uniformed "mirror" of the Red Cross. In the Cape region there are 25 active detachments.

"Many of them are unemployed but they put in thousands of hours of duty ranging from First Aid services at concerts and sporting events to assessing the magnitude of shack fires, to making soup and packing clothing during a disaster."

The most shocking experience for volunteers and salaried staff was when a Red Cross Society volunteer was shot and wounded in October after rushing to help victims of the Khayelitsha Stadium massacre.

"It was very frightening. The volunteer is receiving counselling for post-traumatic stress disorder.

"When we go into a disaster or dangerous area we trade on our symbol — the red cross — and believe that everyone will respect it. When something like this happens it makes our volunteers vulnerable," says Mrs Van Boom.

THABO MABASO
Staff Reporter

MARCONI Beam residents have stopped counting all the fires they've had to fight.

Almost every resident in the camp has at one point or the other been affected by a fire that broke out mysteriously or when a candle fell over.

Unemployed Norman Mthwaze, 34, lost all his belongings in yesterday's early-morning blaze.

"Everything I have went up in flames. The only property I own now is the clothes I'm wearing," he said. Hours after the disaster, his eyes were red from not sleeping since midnight.

He had not eaten anything for most of the day, because he couldn't get his mind off the morning's fiery drama.

Mr Mthwaze has been unemployed for six months. His wife, also jobless, lives with her parents in the former Transkei.

"I don't know what to do and I don't even know where to sleep tonight," he said, holding back tears.

Yesterday was the second time his shack had been destroyed by fire.

Norman Mthwaze said: "If the government fails to carry out its promises it will be rearing a nation of criminals, as people will turn to crime to get what they want."

Lilian Dikana, 41, who is also unemployed, lost her shack for the second time yesterday. She salvaged only two suitcases.

The dwelling first burnt down in 1991.

"With my savings I had just refurbished my shack and now it's all gone," she said,

ARG 10/01/96 (38)

Despair hangs over Marconi Beam

ARG 10/1/95



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

HOMELESS AND HUNGRY: Marconi Beam residents queue for food after the devastating fire which left thousands homeless.

ESANN de KOCK, Staff Reporter

HUNDREDS of tired, despairing residents of the Marconi Beam informal settlement in Milnerton spent last night with friends or in marquees provided by Caltex.

But those who fell asleep exhausted after fighting yet another fire and saving odds and ends from the flames were perhaps the lucky ones.

Many others would have had a sleepless night troubled by thoughts of having to rebuild homes from scratch, finding new furniture and how to divide hard-earned money between food, clothing and material for shacks.

The wait in long queues at the Red Cross Society caravan for the Milnerton municipality to hand out food and timber with the help of society officials and volunteers was nothing compared to the time it will take the community to get back on its feet.

While women and children queued for food and blankets, men helped clear burnt debris and off-loaded timber starter kits provided by the municipality.

In the howling south-easter which bothered no one, tired faces said it all: *Again! Why?*

Even the children looked as if they had lost hope. There was no playing in Marconi Beam yesterday.

Activity at the Red Cross caravan carried on late.

Dusk fell and a bulldozer pushed debris onto a heap and into a large ditch, causing a cloud of black ash to hang over the settlement.

It would settle but the black cloud of despair will linger . . .

● Caltex has responded to the crisis on the doorstep of its refinery by providing Marconi Beam residents with two marquees in which to sleep and a caravan to co-ordinate disaster relief.

● Two Air Force Oryx helicopters and a 22 Squadron Alouette helped eight fire-tenders and nearly 100 firemen fight a veld fire near the Silwerstroom resort on the Cape West Coast yesterday.

● **See pages 2 and 8.**



DONATED CLOTHES . . . Mr Bernard Jordan sifts through donated clothing. Picture: BENNY GOOL

Provincial aid for squatters

CT 12/1/95 (307)

Staff Reporter

PROVINCIAL funds have been made available to alleviate the plight of Marconi Beam squatters left homeless by a devastating fire earlier this week, Health and Welfare Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool announced yesterday.

About 2 500 people were left destitute on Monday morning when fire swept through the Milnerton squatter camp, destroying nearly 500 shacks.

Apart from the provincial aid, donated food and clothing continued to stream in yesterday from as far afield as Worcester, and the OK Bazaars donated clothes worth R5 000 to the squatters.

Mr Rasool said in a statement that the province felt a responsibility towards the squatters, and its social welfare and housing departments had made funds available to provide the destitute with food, clothing and assistance in rebuilding their gutted homes.

Social workers had also visited the area and, with the Milnerton municipality and the Red Cross, were making arrangements for Marconi Beam children to be cared for at a nearby hall.

Meanwhile, Milnerton civil protection medical services head Mr Bernard Jordan and his staff had their hands full yesterday packing food and clothing parcels for the squatters.

★ Cape

Squatters riot in Grabouw

CT 26/1/95 (307)

By EUNICE RIDER

CARS were stoned and streets blockaded with burning tyres by angry squatters in Grabouw yesterday.

The squatters were protesting against a trespassing charge laid against them for allegedly refusing to leave a site presently under development for informal housing.

Grabouw town clerk Mr Valdor Dudley said yesterday community leaders were informed at a meeting with the town council on Tuesday that a complaint of trespassing had been made against them because developers had to complete their project.

At this meeting, he said, the town council agreed to change the criteria for allocating the houses in favour of the squatters — despite existing waiting lists — and the squatters' leaders agreed to ask their followers to move from the site to allow developers to complete their project.

But, in the early hours of yesterday morning, the squatters blockaded roads with burning tyres and threw stones at passing vehicles.

"I do not know what went wrong — our town councillors are hurt and confused by this action," said Mr Dudley.

It was also agreed at Tuesday night's meeting that the squatters would report back to the council by 6pm last night with a decision on whether they would vacate the area under development, said Mr Dudley.

He said the squatter leaders did not return by yesterday's 6pm deadline to give their decision.

Further negotiations would ensue, he said.

Police said no squatters were arrested in the protest.

Kriel intervenes in bid to resolve squatter row

(307) ARG 31/1/95

THABO MABASO
Staff Reporter

WESTERN Cape Premier Hernus Kriel has intervened in an attempt to ease tensions between squatters and Grabouw's Transitional Local Council.

This follows the squatters' illegal occupation of land earmarked for development which led to violence during the past week.

Mr Kriel's spokesman said the premier had referred the matter to the regional cabinet for discussion tomorrow.

Mr Kriel, who was briefed about the situation in Grabouw by regional housing minister Gerald Morkel last Friday, is believed to have advised the provincial administration not to seek a court interdict against the squatters — a move it was apparently on the verge of making.

The Grabouw local council has asked Mr Kriel to act against the squatters, with mayor Stanley Shuma urging "drastic steps" to solve the situation.

Workers (307) refuse to flatten camp

ARG 14/3/95

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Staff Reporter

WORKERS for a company contracted to demolish squatter shacks near Grabouw today refused to work and left the area.

The camp was sealed off by police at dawn today with razorwire after a Supreme Court judgment two weeks ago that the squatters were occupying the land illegally.

Grabouw town clerk Zeldor Dudley said the eviction attempt today had nothing to do with the municipality but had been ordered by the provincial administration.

"It was not a municipal exercise. It was between the land owner (which is the provincial administration), the contractors and the police."

Mr Dudley said alternative land could not be allocated to the people until they had produced a list of names.

Last month the Supreme Court ordered that squatters occupying the land on the Elgin Forest Reserve outside Grabouw be ejected.

The judgment was given in an application by provincial Housing Minister Gerald Morkel and Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel against the squatters.

The land had been bought by the province for low-cost housing but before erven could be allocated, people started to squat there, a spokesman said.



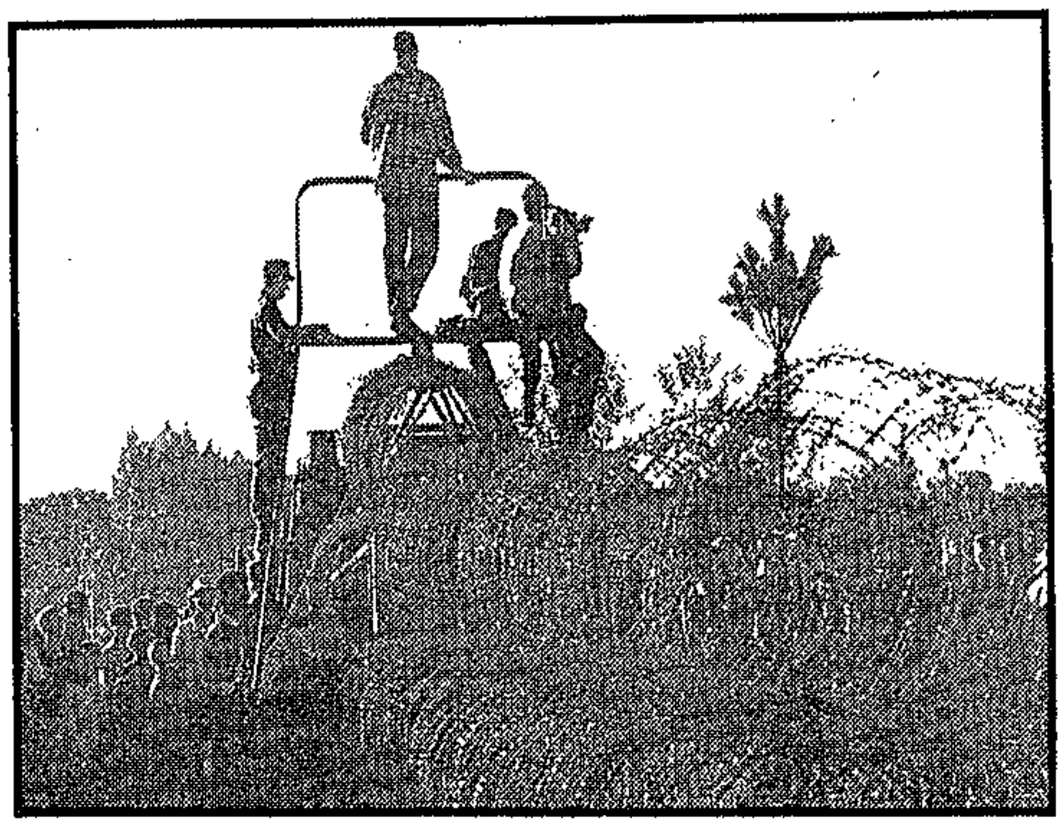
TOOLS DOWN: A large team of workers from an equipment and rig-moving company employed to remove shacks arrived in a convoy of trucks but refused to do the job and stayed in the vehicles. They eventually left. Pictures: JOHAN SCHRÖNEN, The Argus.

A spokesman for Mr Morkel's office said a press statement would be relased later today. He refused to give any comment.

Police arrived at dawn with shotguns, rifles, pistols and riot control equipment, and built a 2 m barbed-wire fence on the perimeter. They gathered on the edge of the settlement with large trucks and prevented people from entering or leaving.

A large team of workers from an equipment and rig-moving company arrived in a convoy of trucks, but the workers stayed in the vehicles.

Meanwhile residents who claimed to be PAC supporters planned a protest march to the local government offices today.



RAZOR FENCE: Policemen with two-way radios watch singing squatters from mobile watchtowers along the 2 m-high barbed-wire cordon on the perimeter of the camp.

Plea to solve homelessness

CT 15/3/95

(307)

ABOUT 1 000 people, led by PAC MP Ms Patricia de Lille, presented a memorandum to the Grabouw transitional council yesterday demanding the homelessness problem there be solved.

This happened as squatter shacks were about to be destroyed.

The provincial administration suspended its action, but claimed the land invasion was illegal.

Provincial Housing Minister Mr Gerald Morkel said a Supreme Court order applied for by the administration allowed the sheriff of the court to remove some 200 families from the land if they had not vacated it by March 10.

Arrangements were made to store the people's possessions on nearby property, he said.

Mrs De Lille said she was called after police barricaded the camp with barbed wire and prevented people leaving for work and school. — Staff Reporter, Sapa

Grabouw mayor's house burnt down

ARG 15/3/95 (307)

☐ *ANC, PAC clash as housing dispute flares*

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Staff Reporter

GRABOUW mayor Stanley Shuma's home was razed to the ground after arsonists torched it during a heated stand-off between ANC and PAC members during a housing dispute.

Police and the fire brigade rushed to the burning home about 9 pm last night but flames had already swept through the house.

Nobody was home at the time. Mr Shuma, who lives alone, was left with the clothes he was wearing.

Emotions ran high yesterday after the provincial authorities unsuccessfully tried to demolish shacks in the nearby Melrose Place squatter settlement, a PAC stronghold, in line with a Supreme Court order.

A team of workers employed to demolish the homes refused to take up tools at first light yesterday in solidarity with the community.

The workers and police guarding the squatters left without any incidents, but tension mounted late yesterday when nearly 1 000 ANC supporters, including Mr Shuma, staged a "solidarity march" to the home of PAC leader Dennis Marinus.

Mr Shuma said they had marched to the house peacefully, but when they reached the building "shots rang out".

"We scattered in all directions and dived for cover but the squatters came after us with axes, pangas and kerries.

"As we were fleeing from the, armed crowd we heard about the fire. We rushed to my house which is in the same road but it was too late. Residents saw people axing down windows frames shortly before smoke started to billow from the house. I have nothing left except the clothes I have on."

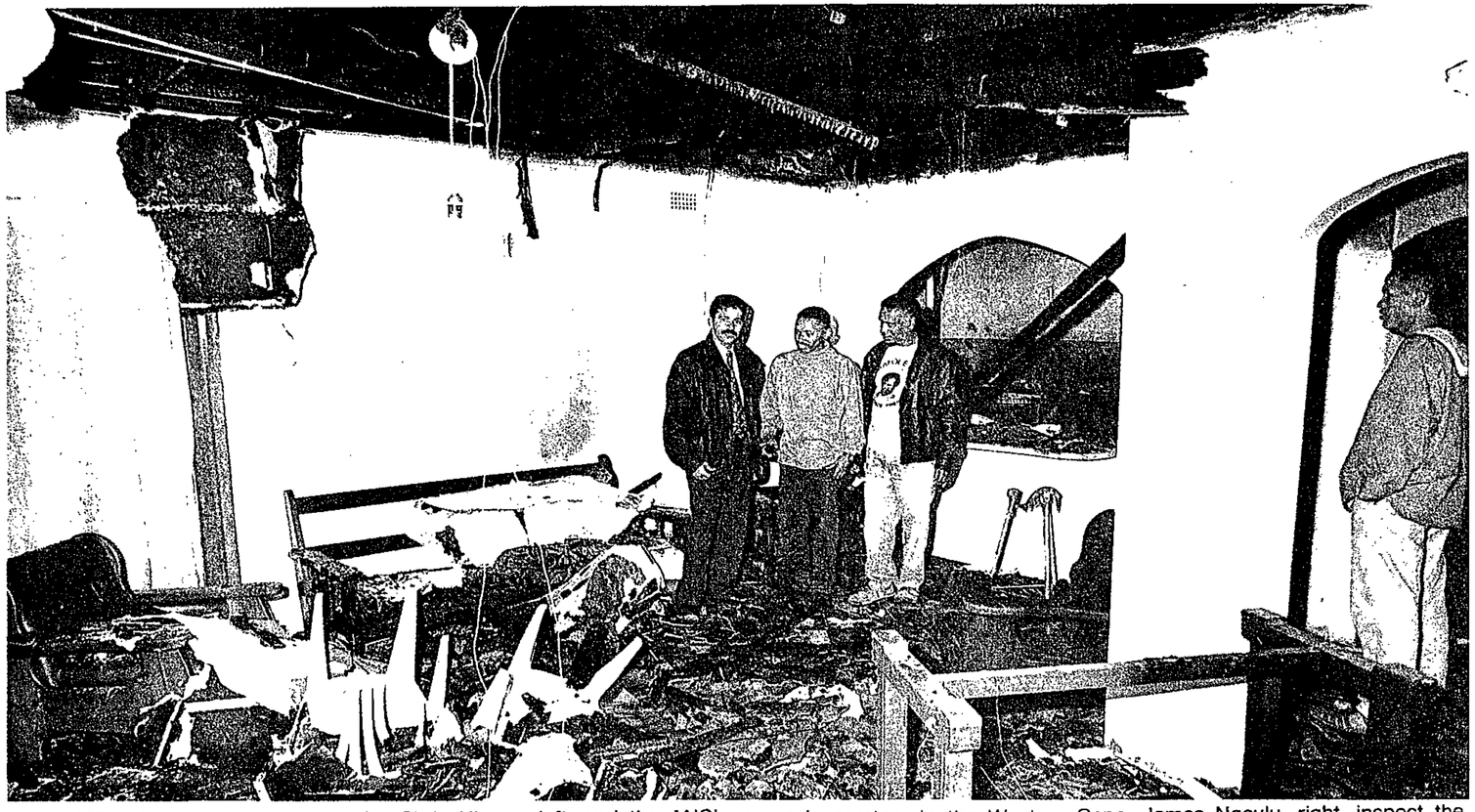
ANC Western Cape leader Chris Nissen arrived shortly afterwards.

"There is a strong underlying political power struggle among community leaders which has now come to a head dressed up as a 'housing dispute'," he said.

"The lives of ANC members have openly been threatened at public meetings. This dispute is not about community grievences and disputes, it seems to centred around personal conflict."

Ministry of Housing spokesman Sam Dodgen said provincial authorities had acquired the land to build low-cost houses but while negotiations were underway to allocate erven, unauthorised people occupied the land.

All subsequent negotiations with interest groups failed and the authorities had resorted to a court order to clear the land.



TORCHED: Western Cape ANC leader Chris Nissen, left, and the ANC's general secretary in the Western Cape, James Ngculu, right, inspect the gutted home of Grabouw's mayor, Stanley Shuma, centre, after an arsonist petrol-bombed the house

Picture: JOHAN SCHRÖNEN, The Argus.

De Lille stops shack demolition

(307) Sowetan 15/3/95

PAN Africanist Congress MP Mrs Patricia de Lille intervened yesterday morning when Cape Provincial Administration officials moved in to break down squatter shacks near Grabouw.

Residents who claim to be PAC supporters were planning to hold a protest march to the local government offices late yesterday.

They are demanding facilities in their area and say they do not want to be removed from the Melrose Place squatter camp.

The CPA suspended the demolition of shacks and police were withdrawn from the area.

De Lille said the community was still willing to negotiate with the provincial government. "They have turned down all our options at all our talks with them to find a solution."

She was called to Grabouw early yesterday after police surrounded the camp with barbed wire, preventing people from going to work and children from attending school.

She said the sheriff had arrived at the scene with workers to break down the shacks, but the workers refused and expressed support for the squatters.

De Lille was to lead a march to the Transitional Local Council in Grabouw which states that the crisis situation that has developed in the area can no longer be tolerated.

The memorandum also requests that a peaceful solution be found through negotiation. — *Sapa*.

Squatters move into new homes

ARG 23/3/95
(126) (307)

NORMAN JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

SQUATTER families who have lived for years in Uitsig will become proud home-owners for the first time this week in a R3 million project.

move into starter houses on a site in Uitsig Avenue and more are to follow, thanks to the Uitsig Community Trust and Utility Homes.

Trust chairwoman Annie Jacobs said 187 homeless families would own homes soon.

The project was made possible by funds supplied six years ago by the former House of Representatives for housing in the area.

The funds were passed on to the Regional Services Council which made them available to the community.

Mrs Jacobs, a community activist, formed a trust and negotiated with Utility Homes for help.

She said: "It is not a big house but a starter home, which is a life investment for families who can extend it."

One of the couples who have already moved into their new home, Dimitri and Sandra Alexander, were on the council's waiting list for 12 years.

Trust vice-chairman Julius Thembani, who lived in a shack for many years and who has also moved into a new home, said: "You can just imagine how I feel. I can't work properly because of the excitement."

Mr Thembani said the houses cost R23 500 each and were secured with a R300 deposit.

Trouble brewing in squatter camp

Weekend Argus Municipal Staff

TROUBLE appears to be brewing between African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress supporters in Wellington over control of the area's Tambo Square squatter camp.

This follows the recent devastating fire in the camp which claimed the lives of three young children and destroyed 105 shacks.

ANC spokesman Brent Simons said the leadership of the PAC should help stabilise the situation and stop its supporters from politicising the crisis in the camp.

"The PAC have threatened to deploy Azanian Peoples' Liberation Army members and since Monday a well known Apla commander has been seen in the town.

"The use of violence as a means of solving disputes in our communities must cease."

He urged people who were attacked or assaulted to lay charges with the police, and said the ANC would not protect or support any member who took part in attacks on individuals or members of other political parties.

The PAC could not be reached for comment. (307) ARG 25/3/95

SUNDAY TIMES CAPE METRO,

Home, sweet home for Uitsig squatters

(307) ST(CM) 26/3/95

By AYESHA ISMAIL

UITSIG squatter families wept with joy as they were handed keys to their new homes this week — a dream come true after nine years of living in shacks.

Twenty families have already moved into their R23 000 starter homes which form part of a R3-million project.

"At least now our children will be reared in a home and not in a shack," said an overjoyed Christopher Sola when he and wife, Rosa, were handed the keys to their new home. They have been on the Regional Services Council waiting list for nine years and had lived with their three children in a shack in a friend's backyard.

Uitsig Community Trust chairperson Annie Jacobs said the project would not have been successful without community co-operation and participation.

"There was a dire need for houses in Uitsig. The number of shacks in people's backyards was growing rapidly causing a health and fire hazard.

"A delegation from the community met with Regional Services Council six years ago about the shortage of houses.

"The meetings continued until finally we saw there was light at the end of the tunnel," Mrs Jacobs said.

There was enough vacant land in Uitsig on which to build houses, she added.



DREAMHOUSE . . . Mr and Mrs Sola with the key to their new home after nine years as squatters living in a shack Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

"Last year in October we were informed that 187 houses would be built in Uitsig Avenue. The community was very happy. It was like a dream come true.

"The first 20 families have already started moving in.

"People were so happy, they cried openly when we handed the keys to them," Mrs Jacobs said.

Although the houses are small, they can be extended at a later stage.

Monthly payments from as little as R150 are determined by each family's income. The houses, which cost R23 300, are built by Cape Utility homes.

The project was made possible by funds supplied by the former House of Representatives six years ago for housing in the area.

THREAT TO DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY

'Hit at Grabouw farmers' call

CT 27/3/95

307 BRIGHT

GRABOUW: Businessmen fear the multi-million rand deciduous fruit industry could be brought to a standstill if squatters in the area carry out threats of mass action, reports Crime Reporter **JACKIE CAMERON.**

GRABOUW Community Organisation (Graco) chairman Mr Dennis Marinus, of the PAC, called at the weekend for a boycott of the deciduous fruit industry if squatters are evicted from state land they are living on illegally.

The call was made at a public meeting on Friday.

The squatters have been given till April 1 to move from Elgin Forest Reserve — land earmarked for informal housing.

The squatters have shown no sign of preparing to move to alternative land that has been allocated to them, sources in the town said yesterday.

Grabouw Chamber of Commerce spokesman Mr Bruce Green said the squatter issue was the biggest threat facing industry in the town.

"Most people working in the co-operatives are very frightened. If the boycott is carried out they might have to stop working and the town could be brought to a standstill.

"We would welcome a peaceful solution. The problem is that this issue has turned into a political one between the PAC and ANC," he said.

A meeting involving the Housing Forum, Transitional Local Council and other groups will be held in the town tonight.

Mr Green said he hoped to meet regional Housing Minister Mr Gerald Morkel and Minister of Police Mr Patrick McKenzie later this week to seek a solution to the problem.

Violence has erupted in the town several times in recent weeks following the occupation of the land by about 300 squatters who fear newcomers will jump the queue for housing there.

Mayor Mr Stanley Shuma's house was burnt down by arsonists after provincial authorities unsuccessfully tried to demolish squatters' shacks.

Police said they were not expecting violence but were able to deal with any that might occur.

Meanwhile, a ceasefire between warring PAC and ANC factions in the Driftsands squatter camp has been negotiated, the Lingelethu West Transitional Council announced.

Continual violence over the past month has led to many ANC supporters fleeing the squatter camp for Site C in Khayelitsha.

The council said a residents' meeting had unanimously agreed on an immediate ceasefire.

'We won't move' say squatters as confrontation looms

(307)
ARG 28/3/95

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE on-off eviction of about 1 000 Grabouw squatters — occupying land earmarked for low-cost housing — seems set for confrontation next week after the squatters vowed they would not move of their own accord.

The squatters have been given until Saturday to pack up, failing which they will be forcibly evicted.

Last month, regional Housing Minister Gerald Morkel and Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel won a Supreme Court order allowing them to eject the squatters.

But attempts to move them failed when employees of the company subcontracted to demolish the shacks refused to carry out the work.

Ten days ago Mr Morkel gave the squatters a final ultimatum: move peacefully to a transit area by April 1 or be moved.

Meanwhile, newly elected mayor Stanley Shuma had his house torched, and the Grabouw Community Organisation/PAC threatened a deciduous fruit boycott if the evictions proceeded.

Last night the Housing Forum, Transitional Local Council, and political parties held a meeting to allow the Grabouw Community Organisation/PAC to respond to Mr Morkel's ultimatum.

Chaired by Bruce Green of the Grabouw Chamber of Commerce, the meeting began half-an-hour late because PAC MP Patricia de Lille was expected, but she did not turn up.

Grabouw Community Organisation/PAC chairman Dennis Marinus told the sometimes-heated meeting the land earmarked for the transit camp was not suitable for human habitation and the community had identified an area they preferred.

He said: "We are bringing in an expert engineer to survey whether the land is suitable for human beings."

A video cassette had been sent to President Mandela, outlining the area's problem and appealing for help, Mr Marinus said.

Until the engineer had completed his survey and the president responded to the appeal, it was impossible for the squatters to move.

He said the area identified for the transit camp had been due for development by Appletizer but had been found unsuitable. He demanded to be shown a copy of the Appletizer report.

"If the provincial administration sticks to the evictions while this whole messy business is going on, we have questions to raise as to the justness and fairness of the province," Mr Marinus said.

Mr Green said he had "a terrible feeling" the issue would not be resolved peacefully.

"I have a terrible feeling people are going to get hurt. Please, try to look for peaceful solutions. I appeal to all of you, and for outside help, anyone who has a plan for a peaceful solution, please let us know."

■ WESTLAKE

A new site for Cape squatters

ARG 4/5/95 (307)

Areas considered by team of specialist planners

Southern Reporter

PROSPECTS of finding an acceptable new "home" for the Westlake squatters and thus ending one of the area's most aggravating issues have risen following a major study by a leading firm of planners in Cape Town.

Among 10 alternative sites considered and visited by specialists from MLH Planners and Architects and representatives of the community are three which make up some of the most valuable land in the entire region.

They are the Silvermine naval housing site high on the slopes on Steenberg, the park-and-ride site on Kendal Road in Constantia and the Firgrove Road school site.

Other sites include various pockets of land in Muizenberg, Retreat, Steenberg and Parkwood.

The land occupied by the squatters is needed for expansion of the Westlake Technical College, plans for which are at an advanced stage. The site of the shack settlement, at the end of the Blue Route freeway, is also considered unsuitable for other reasons.

It is an eyesore on a scenic route, difficult to service and a danger for traffic and pedestrians.

At the end of the study, consensus was reached that the settlement should be relocated on land within the Westlake area, but further away from the road. More than half of the land available is developed.

The planners will also assist and advise individual settlers, or small groups, who wish to move elsewhere, and put them in touch with the relevant authorities.

Criteria for land have included availability (who owns the land and whether there are already development plans), size, services available or possible and the zoning status. Another important factor has been that about 60 percent of the adult population of the settlement is employed within easy reach of Westlake.

Some sites were rejected because they were zoned for industrial development, which will provide jobs in the near future (such as some Retreat land); in other cases (Kendal Road) the ownership and use of the land is still the subject of debate.

The Silvermine township is to be sold to the highest bidders by the state, and the millions realised used to finance low-cost housing elsewhere.

The study has included close co-operation and consultation orchestrated by a team from MLH Architects and Planners, the shack-dwellers themselves and their leaders, the owners of the land (the Department of Public Works, who will soon hand ownership to the Provincial Administration) as well as with surrounding ratepayer organisations, the Retreat Forum and the Transitional Metropolitan Substructure of Constantia (TMSC).

One problem facing planners has been the community's uncontrolled growth in recent years. Conservative estimates of the group's size have ranged from 50 units at 167 people in September 1993 to over 900

WESTLAKE

Delay in search for new site to house squatters

ARG 8/5/95

(307)

Southern Reporter

MOVES to find a new site for the Westlake informal community are "in limbo" following a shift in the leadership of the community.

But Nigel Burls, who is leading the study conducted by leading Cape Town planners MLH, said it was hoped the "hiccough" would soon settle, and negotiations resume. The presently occupied land is urgently needed for the expansion of the Westlake Technical College.

The MLH team has been negotiating with community leaders, the provincial and state owners of the current site, and various ratepayer organisations and local authorities.

Consensus was reached that the shack-dwellers should relocate within Westlake itself — for several reasons.

- More than half the community is employed in the area;
- The community can be easily accommodated on large areas of undeveloped land, out of sight of the surrounding scenic routes (this would also help limit the unbridled growth of the settlement).
- The land belongs to state and provincial bodies, who do not have immediate development plans for the land and might be prepared to free it for occupation; and
- The site can easily be serviced.

Mr Burls said in the interests of open-handedness, all available open land in the region had been examined. All other sites had been rejected by the negotiating group, including the squatter leaders.

"None of the other sites fitted the bill," he said. He added that when the community is moved, some might move to existing informal settlements further afield.

STREET KIDS REHABILITATION CENTRE PLANNED

Valkenberg battles squatters

CT 12/5/95 307

A BATTLE is looming between a group of 131 street people squatting at Valkenberg and the authorities who want them removed. **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

MORE than 100 street kids and their leader have set up a comfortable home in a derelict part of Valkenberg hospital — but authorities have had enough and want them out.

The squatters moved in at Christmas when a Sea Point artist, known only as Vaughn, decided to host a week-long party for 57 street kids in the disused forensic wing.

In the past six months his following has grown to 131 street people, who have resisted all attempts by the authorities to have them removed or relocated.

Vaughn said yesterday he wanted to lease the premises to provide a rehabilitation centre for street children where they could live and attend arts and crafts workshops.

"In five years there should be no more street kids. These kids are willing, given the tools. We are not asking for handouts but a base to start anew," he said.

However, Valkenberg medical officer Dr Chris Dare said during the past six months there had been "very little evidence of what was promised in the way of developmental projects".

Now the Valkenberg Hospital board has appealed to the Welfare Ministry to evict the squatters and street children.

Vaughn showed the Cape Times newly-swept corridors and surprisingly clean quarters where street children lay asleep on the beds. Several families have moved into former psychiatric cells which they have decorated with magazine pictures and colourful paraphernalia scavenged off the street.

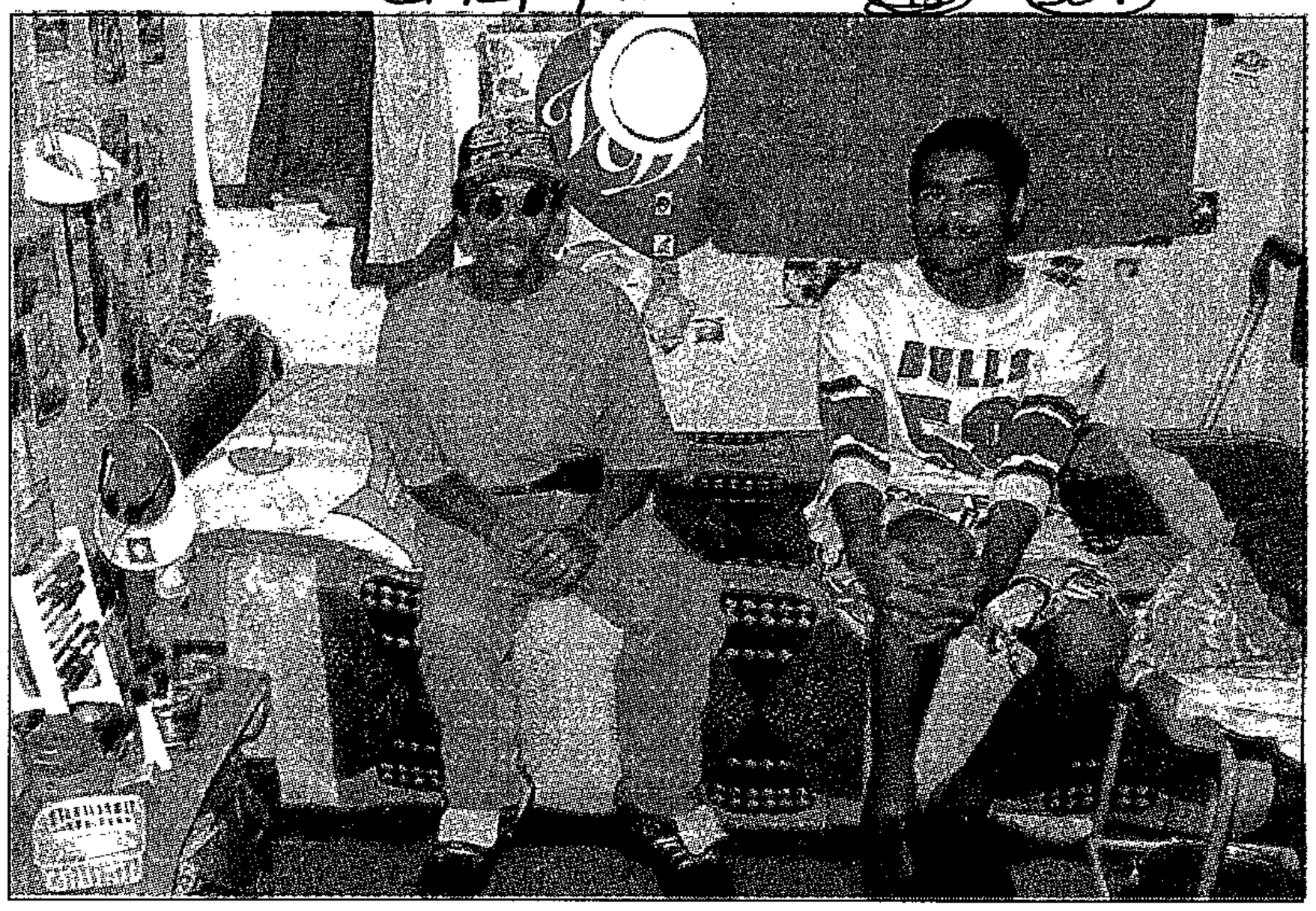
After an inspection yesterday, however, acting chairman of the Valkenberg Hospital board Mr Louis van der Walt said:

"This is the biggest scam I have ever heard".

He said the squatters were "illegal occupiers and trespassers who represented a danger to patients, staff and themselves".

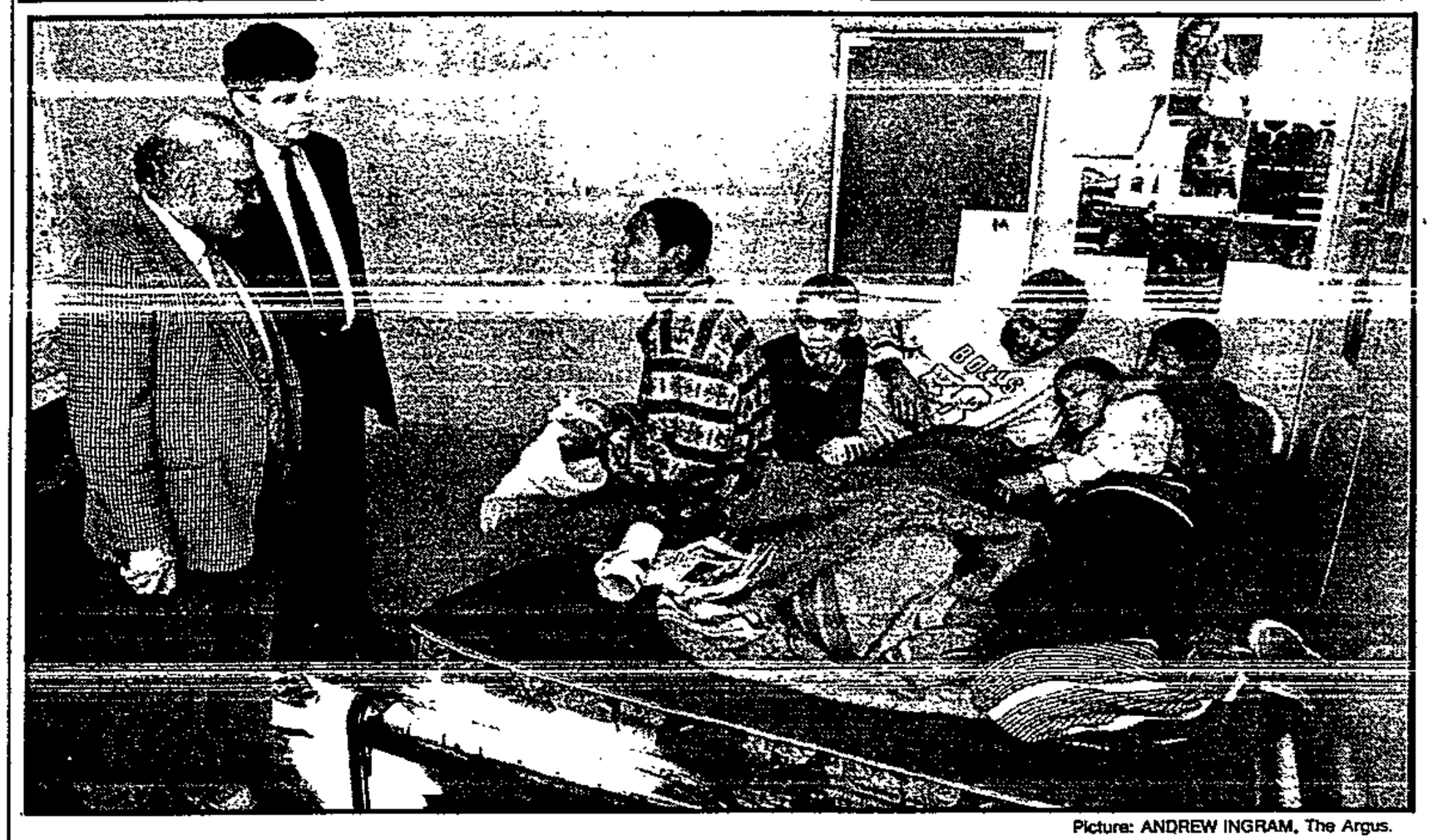
"If the government allows the squatting to continue it will constitute a serious infringement of the rights of the handicapped," he said.

The Welfare Ministry could not be reached for comment.



HOME AND DRY: Street people Mr Kevin Williams (left) and Mr Ismail Benjamin relax in comfort in their new home, formerly a psychiatric cell, in a derelict part of Valkenberg Hospital which has been occupied by squatters since Christmas. ***PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR***

missing at sea after the dinghy they were on capsized off Scarborough.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

HOME VISIT: Louis van der Walt, in dark suit, acting chairman of the Valkenberg Hospital Board, and board member Abdul Barday talk to some of the children who were yesterday "resting" in the disused Valkenberg building which they now call home.

Health warning after squatters occupy disused hospital ward

ARG 12/5/95 (307)

Health Reporter

HEALTH and social conditions have become intolerable in a disused Valkenberg Hospital building where squatters have settled say hospital authorities, who have asked regional Health Minister Ebrahim Rasool to intervene.

A group of street children and adults moved into the Ward 31 building before Christmas — and numbers have grown to more than 120.

Louis van der Walt, acting chairman of the Valkenberg Hospital Board, said yesterday the squatters had refused to move to alternative accommodation.

They had even ignored a letter from the Ministry of Health and Welfare asking them to move.

In March hospital authorities urged Mr Rasool to get a court order to evict them.

The building was meant for mental health care purposes, and when the squatters moved in, discussions were underway with prospective tenants.

Mr Van der Walt said the squatter leaders claimed their occupation was part of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Valkenberg psychiatrist Sean Kaliski said in a letter to the board it was "inexplicable" that the authorities were "vacillating about whether to allow these squatters ... to remain on the premises".

Undesirable incidents included the discovery of a state patient — admitted after being charged with murder — staying with the squatters.

Illegal occupiers had also "threatened" nurses and some patients "known for their predilection for sexually abusing minors" had been found near the occupied building.

Dr Kaliski said he anticipated "catastrophic events" and the possibility of violence was "very high", if patients held in connection with criminal activities and squatters interacted.

Acting medical superintendent Chris Dare said weapons, including knives and shears, had been found on the premises.

Alternative accommodation had been found for the street children but "as more and more homeless people moved in, unhousing them became quite a difficult issue".

If the government allowed the squatters to stay, it would be an infringement of the rights of the handicapped.

The building had been found in a disgusting state, with blocked overflowing toilets and rubbish lying around, he said.

When The Argus visited the building yesterday, the wooden floors had apparently been hosed down, with puddles of water remaining. In some upstairs rooms there was a strong smell of urine.

In one room sleeping and half-awake youngsters were lying on dilapidated beds.

Squatter spokesman Aldrick Johannes conceded the building had been dirty on the day Dr Dare visited, but said occupants cleaned the premises every day.

The men worked in cleaning shifts, while four women were in charge of cooking.

He said the occupants themselves had unblocked the toilets.

The sleeping children had been to school in the morning and were resting.

The squatters would not move out, he said.

Vaughan Jacobs, one of the squatter "leaders", claimed the youngsters were sleeping inside, because hospital authorities would not allow them to play outside.

ORKNEY: ... colleagues of ... miners killed at Vaal Reefs were in shock as they awaited word of their fellow workers

Health warning after squatters occupy disused hospital ward

ARG 12/5/95 (307)



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

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'Angel' watches over Valkenberg squatters



NEW HOME: Street children play contentedly on a metal sculpture which is called "The Guardian Angel" by the leader of a group of squatters who have occupied a derelict wing of Valkenberg Hospital. **See Page 7**

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

CT. 12/5/95 (307)

Valkenberg Hospital squatters warned

(307) ARG 13/5/95

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Health Reporter

THE regional Department of Health has condemned the "illegal occupation" of a disused Valkenberg Hospital building by squatters — and has warned that they will be evicted if they do not vacate the building.

Hospital authorities said this week health conditions at the settlement had become intolerable.

A group of strollers and adults moved into the Ward 13 building before Christmas, and numbers have grown to over 120.

Tom Sutcliffe, deputy director-general of health in the Western Cape, said the occupation posed "a great risk to staff, patients and squatters".

Most importantly, it posed a health threat, as the ward did not have "the infrastructure to cope with the numbers involved".

Dr Sutcliffe said: "The Health Department, in conjunction with the Department of Social Services, has addressed the problem and a contingency plan is currently being implemented."

The squatters had been served with written notices pointing out the illegality of their actions.

White squatters now move in

Star 16/5/95 (307)

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Pan African Congress MP Patricia de Lille has called on Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel to be consistent in his handling of the small group of white squatters which moved on to vacant land in Ruyterwacht in the Cape Peninsula over the weekend.

Her plea follows the erection by angry rightwingers of squatter shacks and tents in the mainly "poor white" suburb in Goodwood which was the scene earlier this year of a controversy over the opening of a black school in the area.

Ruyterwacht and some Elsies River residents are also up in arms against the Goodwood municipality for alleged poor services and unaffordable rents and rates.

"Our position is, if other squatters can do it, why can't we," said leader of the white squatters Leon de la Fonteyn, who featured prominently in the Ruyterwacht residents' recent resistance against the occupation of the local school by black pupils.

He said residents had also decided to stop paying rates and taxes, for television licences and municipal services.

Goodwood charges white squatters with trespassing

(307)

ARG 17/5/95

GOODWOOD municipality has laid a charge of trespassing against white squatters in the conservative Ruyterwacht area as it has done in other cases.

Town clerk Dave Wilkin said today: "We are negotiating with these people, but the principle is that squatting cannot be allowed and we are also negotiating with the state to see if that piece of land in question can be developed to the benefit of the people."

Mr Wilkin said it did not matter who the squatters were.

"They are trespassing on the land and that cannot be tolerated. You cannot permit squatting in a developed area."

About three or four white squatters were causing conflict and their leader did not live in Ruyterwacht.

"This man does not live in Ruyterwacht. He lives in nearby Vryzee and goes home to wash and shower.

"He says he will find destitute people and put up shacks because the government is doing nothing. He appears to have a grudge against the Western Cape premier and the government."

The whole incident has been blown out of all proportion, Mr Wilkin said.

Yesterday the squatters vowed that they would not leave the land until Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel took note of their demands, which included evicting black squatters at nearby Epping Forest. — Sapa.

● **Hunger strike threat, page 8.**

I'll go on hunger strike, says white squatter leader

☐ *Ruyterwacht rebel denies racism but warns of resistance*

ARG 17/5/95 (307)



MAKING CAMP: White squatter leader Leon Delafontein, kneeling front, and members of his community cook on an open fire. They built shacks in an empty field in Ruyterwacht to protest against the lack of proper housing for the community.

Pictures: JACK LESTRADE.

DAVID YUTAR
Staff Reporter

RUYTERWACHT's white squatter leader Leon Delafontein, who with his followers has built shacks to protest against the lack of proper housing for the community, says he will go on a hunger strike if he is arrested.

Mr Delafontein's group put up wooden shacks and tents in an empty field across the road from a row of modest houses.

The suburb was the scene of a controversy earlier this year over the opening to black pupils of a school in the area.

Mr Delafontein and his followers began erecting their structures at the weekend to protest against what they claim is a lack of proper housing for the community, and shoddy treatment by the Western Cape regional government.

They say Ruyterwacht and some Elsies River residents are angry with the Goodwood municipality over poor services and high rates and taxes.

The wooden shacks and tents erected by Mr Delafontein and his group are just a stone's throw from the structures of coloured squatters who have been targeted for removal by white residents.

Mr Delafontein said he was not taking the stand for his own benefit.

He said he and his group were allied to a group known as the Civilian Operated Protection Services.

His group had highly trained people who would take up arms if called on to do so in protection of the rights and security of ordinary citizens.

Such services would be available to all, regardless of colour.

Mr Delafontein strenuously denied his followers belonged to the AWB or any right-wing party, but he did express support for IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Mr Delafontein said he would not use violence, nor resist arrest but would embark on a hunger strike if arrested.

"I could occupy this whole ground now if I wanted to but I am a reasonable person and made an agreement (with the police) not to put up more shacks and so I haven't.

"But if you come with bulldozers and firearms, the community will retaliate as well as people from outside. I am convinced we can solve this problem in a decent manner."

Mr Delafontein accused the government of "inverse racism" saying that when "Africans in Milnerton put up shacks", the government came and built houses for them.

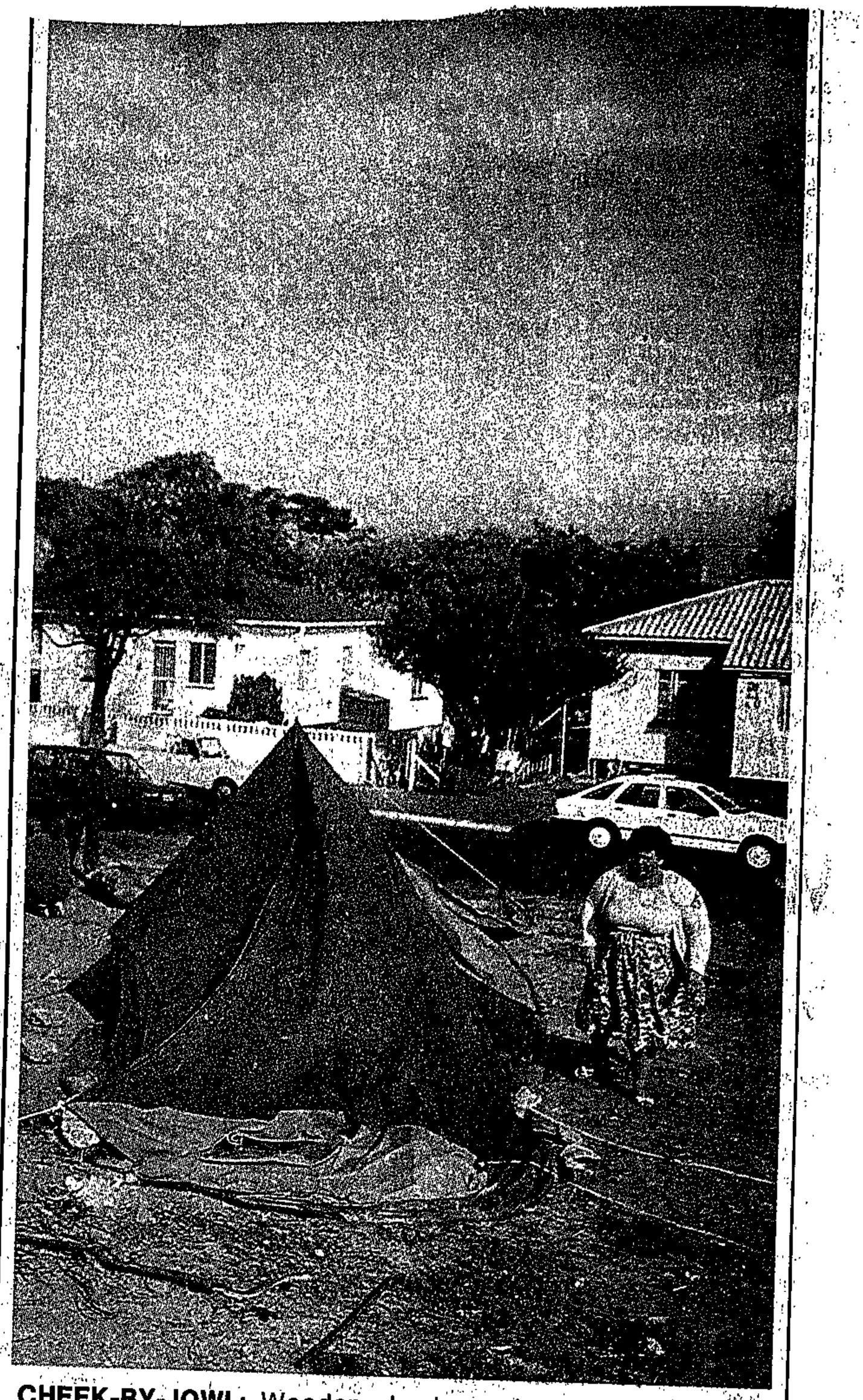
"So why don't they build houses for everyone?" he asked.

"I am certainly not racist. I am engaged to a coloured lady and some of my best friends are Africans from Langa and Khayelitsha."

But some residents living across the road from the white squatters are not happy about their presence.

Leane Ellis, whose home is across the road from the squatters' shacks, felt that as residents, they should have been consulted before the shacks were erected and that property values would be adversely affected.

"I have just had the third refusal of an offer to rent my home simply because of the presence of these squatters."



CHEEK-BY-JOWL: Wooden shacks and tents of the white squatter community are right across the road from established houses in the down-at-heel white suburb of Ruyterwacht. Residents of the formal houses say their property values will be adversely affected by the squatters.

'No kid-glove treatment from W Cape government'

ARG 1775/95 (307)

Political Correspondent

THE squatters of Ruyterwacht have been warned not to expect kid-glove treatment from the National Party-dominated Western Cape government.

While officials from the provincial housing department have begun negotiations in an attempt to address the squatters' grievances and to convince them to leave, acting Premier — and Housing Minister — Gerald Morkel made it clear the province would not tolerate illegal squatting.

"The illegal occupation of land cannot be tolerated.

"It doesn't matter who they are; it doesn't matter from what race they are; squatters cannot be tolerated on land that has been earmarked for building purposes," he said.

The provincial government's reaction to the squatters is being closely watched by Pan Africanist Congress provincial leader Patricia de Lille who called on Mr Kriel to treat the white squatters of Ruyterwacht in the same way as Grabouw squatters who were evicted last month.



Controversial . . . white squatters who have settled in Ruyterwacht cook out in the open. PICTURE: ARGUS PICTURE SERVICE

PAC throws down gauntlet over white squatters

Star 17/5/95 (307)

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Western Cape Housing MEC Gerald Morkel met his senior officials yesterday to decide how to deal with white squatters who have settled on land in Ruyterwacht to make a political point.

It was understood Morkel's chief concern was to establish who owned the land on which the squatters had settled.

The meeting took place against the background of a challenge from Pan Africanist Congress leader in the province, Patricia de Lille, who urged the provincial government to be consistent in its handling of the squatters.

Citing Premier Hernus Kriel's order to evict 250 coloured families from Melrose Park in Grabouw last month because they were occupying the land illegally, she said: "We are asking Kriel to be consistent so that we can avoid racial conflict."

The PAC would consider monitoring the situation at Ruyterwacht.

Leon de la Fonteyn, leader of the squatter group, said the purpose of the action was to show that whites also had rights.

He confirmed that he had a house, but said "I am doing it for the people, to show we also have rights".

It is understood he has demanded a visit by Kriel.

However, Kriel is only due to return from overseas tomorrow. Morkel will deal with the matter in the meantime.

Ruyterwacht was in the news earlier this year when conflict arose between residents and black pupils who were bused in from the townships for tuition at an unoccupied school in the area.

Residents had agreed to the school being used by about 500 pupils, but tension mounted when several thousand arrived. The crisis was eventually resolved through negotiation.

'Inhumane' eviction of Angolans under fire

ARG 18/5/95

307

Municipal Reporter

POLICE have evicted 27 Angolan refugees from a Woodstock church, prompting an angry response from a resident who says the people were treated inhumanely.

The refugees were due to appear in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court today.

The evictions followed a trespassing complaint laid by the provincial Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning yesterday.

Alison Stent of the Human Rights Committee said that, even if the evictions were legal, the committee was extremely concerned by the alleged method of eviction.

Woodstock resident Bassi Nelson said he was walking past the church in Regent Street about 7 pm yesterday while police were evicting the refugees.

"It was worse than 1976. It was a nightmare," he said.

Mr Nelson claimed police were kicking the refugees and throwing them into trucks.

He said people were screaming and he saw one man being pulled off barbed wire he was holding on to.

"It was disgusting. They say it is the new South Africa. These people ran away from their country because they feared the war there.

"They could have taken the people out, but not in that way."

Police captain John Sterrenberg urged Mr Nelson to come forward and make a sworn affidavit so the allegations could be investigated.

He said the evictions should have been carried out in a humanitarian way.

Provincial Housing Minister Gerald Morkel said yesterday legal steps were being taken against the refugees after "several months of negotiations" and alternative accommodation had been found.

Some of the people moved willingly, but others refused, saying they were going to be deported back to Angola, which was untrue, said Mr Morkel.

"As a last resort, the welfare organisation which had made all the arrangements for the alternative accommodation, agreed to pay rent money designated for the landlords of the new accommodation directly to the refugees, with an undertaking from them that they would find alternative accommodation themselves.

"Although some of them vacated the building, a number refused to leave under the pretext that they had not received their share of the money. The security guards were threatened with violence and the refugees again occupied the building.

"In light of this, we are satisfied the refugees have had more than enough chance to be accommodated elsewhere. Therefore, the law now must take its course."

White and Coloured squatters digging in

(301) ARG 18/5/96

Staff Reporter

FACED with the prospect of eviction, coloured and white squatters at Ruyterwacht are digging in their heels and have vowed to resist attempts to remove them.

The two groups have joined forces in a show of strength against the Western Cape government and the Goodwood municipality, both of whom have indicated they will take eviction action against both groups of squatters.

The squatters have combined to form a committee, with the following demands:

- Title to land for the Epping Forest residents who are without homes and are unemployed;
- Free building material with which to build homes;
- Water and toilet facilities;
- Refuse removal facilities; and
- Free blankets.

A spokesperson for the committee said: "We demand to be treated as human beings, who through no fault of our own have been reduced to these abhorrent conditions."

Earlier today Goodwood town clerk Dave Wilkin said his municipality had laid a charge of trespassing against the white squatters who were illegally occupying a road reserve belonging to the council.

He said the principle was that squatting could not be allowed.

Legal action on refugees

cr 9/5/95

(307)

STAFF REPORTER

THE Provincial Administration is to take legal action against a group of refugees illegally occupying an old NG church in Woodstock.

Provincial housing minister Mr Gerald Morkel said yesterday the refugees had refused to leave the building despite suitable alternative accommodation having been found for them.

They had alleged they were to be deported to Angola, which was untrue, Mr Morkel said.

A welfare group had then agreed to pay rent, which would have gone to the landlords of the new accommodation, to the refugees so they could make their own arrangements. Some, however, were still refusing to leave.

'Security group' in squatter row

(307)

ST (CM) 21/5/95

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A SHADOWY, white-led security group is threatening a fragile alliance between homeless coloureds and whites squatting on an old rubbish dump near Cape Town's conservative Ruyterwacht suburb.

George May, vice-chairman of the Kleurlingweerstandbeweging's Ruyterwacht branch, says he is convinced whites who set up house in a shack in view of his home a week ago have backing from the ultra-right AWB.

The white squatters, represented by an organisation called "Civilian-operated Protection Services (COPS), deny the AWB link.

According to COPS leader Leon de la Fonteyn, his organisation is a philanthropic security service which fights for animal and human rights.

"We're not associated with the AWB or any political party. We stand up for poor people, black and white."

He says he is tired of "hollow" promises of land and housing for the homeless, and says he will not move until the politicians deliver.

He is undeterred by a charge of illegal squatting that has been brought against him.

"We're in no-man's land. No-one can tell us who owns this land."

But Mr May, who recently joined the KWB to represent 28 squatters fighting for serviced land on the Epping Forest dump — some since 1981 — takes a dim view of the COPS initiative.

He and Mr de la Fonteyn shook hands on Wednesday as a demonstration of a peace pact, but relations have deteriorated since then, says Mr May.

Alleged racial abuse by a white woman has left him and his compatriots feeling threatened, he says.

"The racist language came after we and the whites said we must fight together. According to them, they're here to protect and support us."

Tenuous solidarity evaporated on Thursday, he says, when a white delegation left for a meeting with police in Bellville without notifying the KWB.

Ruyterwacht's KWB members include a white man, Jonathan Conolloy, 53, who says: "It looks like we're in a political tug o' war. A lot's being said, but little done. Nelson Mandela has granted rights to others and we also want those rights."

Such rights, says Mr May, include land tenure, toilets, taps, a R500 housing subsidy and blankets.

"Blacks who come fresh from the Transkei get building material. Why don't we?"

Mr de la Fonteyn says his organisation, started as "a business" about six months ago, has up to 350 members and an office in Cape Town.

It had a "reaction" wing and supplied bodyguards. It had applied for registration as a security company with the Security Officers' Board.

Mr de la Fonteyn admits that he has a house in Parow.

"But I'm not like (PAC MP) Patricia de Lille who says she's for squatters, but sleeps at home. I've slept here every night."

As to the KWB members who were forced to dismantle their shack and move from the area behind a nearby house occupied by whites; he says: "They're uneducated people who are scared of men in suits."

Mr De la Fonteyn says he will be attending a Freedom Front conference in Bloemfontein next month.

Two 'white' shacks destroyed by squatters

ARG 23/5/95 (307)

We've made our point, says leader



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus

ALL OVER: Leon Delafontein adds more rubble to the fire after the squatter huts in Ruyterwacht were demolished and torched by the "squatters" themselves. He said they saw no need to continue their action as "the council people are already here looking at repairing the streetlights and cleaning up the area".

Staff Reporter

THE two "white" squatter shacks in Ruyterwacht have been demolished and burnt by the squatters after a successful meeting between residents of the suburb and Goodwood municipality.

The shacks were put up by residents 10 days ago in protest against poor services from Goodwood municipality and unaffordable rents and rates.

A group in Ruyterwacht called the Civilian-operated Protection Services (Cops) led the protest and leader Leon Delafontein stayed in one of the shacks.

The white "squatters" were later supported by coloured squatters and some residents from Elsies River.

The two squatter groups joined forces and demanded title to land for the Epping Forest residents who are without homes and unemployed; free building material with which to build homes; water and toilet facilities; refuse removal facilities and free blankets.

Mr Delafontein said he had decided to quit squatting on council property yesterday when the Goodwood municipality agreed to address service provision in the area and promised that a wall would be built to separate the Ruyterwacht municipal area from the regional services council area.

"The council people are already here looking at repairing the streetlights and cleaning up the area. We see no need to continue our action."

He said his organisation was also satisfied that seven homeless people who had stayed in the shacks had found accommodation in Ruyterwacht.

Goodwood town clerk Dave Wilken said it was agreed at yesterday's meeting that:

- The municipality would no longer negotiate with individuals, but with the Ruyterwacht Ratepayers Association;
- Eleven huts in the Epping Bush squatter camp which fell under the Elsies River transitional area had to be demolished and negotiations to improve the plight of this community would have to be taken up with the Elsies River transitional council.
- The two squatter huts in Ruyterwacht be removed and that the municipality would pay attention to grievances about streetlights and services.

Meeting restores Grabouw calm

Staff Reporter

CALM has returned to the Overberg town of Grabouw after the major players, stuck in a deadlock over housing, reached agreement on several issues at a marathon eight-hour meeting.

Topping the agenda was the violence which turned into a minor racial war earlier this week when black and coloured squatters fought running street battles.

The parties all agreed to end hostilities and to suspend all protest action in the town, and committed themselves to resolve the issues through negotiation.

Town clerk Valdor Dudley said the meeting was the 48th since the beginning of the year between the transitional local council and the Grabouw Community Organisation (Graco) in a bid to resolve the crisis in the town.

"But it was also the most successful as we reached agreements on things that were tearing the town apart."

A few weeks ago Graco supporters, about 1 000 predominantly coloured squatters, were bulldozed from Melrose Place, a site earmarked for low-cost housing for all homeless Grabouw people, and moved to a transit camp called Snake Park 300m away.

The forced move sparked racial tension between Graco members and the residents of four black squatter camps, some of whom were attacked and stoned by angry Graco members on Monday.

Graco leader Dennis Marinus demanded "immediate electricity" at the temporary site and the assurance that all residents would be allocated plots in Melrose Place, but the local council said the demands were impossible to meet.

Last night Mr Marinus, who was suspended from the council because of his poor attendence record at council meetings, was allowed to serve as a councillor again on condition that Local Government Minister Peter Marais approved his re-appointment.

Mr Dudley said Mr Marinus also agreed to serve on the housing forum, the body responsible for the allocation of sites at Melrose Place, on condition that an independent auditor be brought into the process to monitor the allocation process.

"Another thorny issue that the meeting resolved was the scrapping of service arrears.

"The parties agreed that the council did not have the resources to write off debts and only if the central government stepped in and paid the accounts would residents' debts be written off.

Eagle eyes watch Franschhoek housing

ARG 1/4/95 (307)

KAREN STANDER
Weekend Argus Reporter

A CONTROVERSIAL low and middle-income housing project in the picturesque Winelands town of Franschhoek is likely to get the go-ahead, but this does not mean the charm of the town will be destroyed.

Residents are determined to ensure the houses conform to its style and have vowed to keep an eagle-eye on developments in the town, where all plans have to be passed by a council-appointed aesthetics committee.

Town Clerk Meyer Siebrits said many of those who objected to the project referred to a "squatter community" on council commonage.

There was even speculation that the "influx" of squatters was intended to swell the number of people who would vote for the African National Congress in the local government election.

Asked to comment, ANC Western Cape media officer Brent Simons said the ANC supported the provision of housing but was not in favour of large numbers of squatters, or any other group, being moved into an area.

In fact, the development was for formal housing, said Mr Siebrits. It consisted of 60 plots between 180 and 312 sq m. Semi-detached houses built on them would be sold for R75 000 to R100 000.

He said the council had approved the development in principle and advertised for objections. About 300 people objected and the developers would be given an opportunity to respond. A final decision was expected at this month's council meeting.

Mr Siebrits said some objectors felt their property values would be affected and others were concerned about increased traffic and available drinking water.

Like all new developments, the project would fall under the jurisdiction of the town's aesthetics committee and would be strictly controlled.

The committee consisted of councillors, architects and residents and were guided by the town-planning scheme.

Attorney David Jacobs, representing a group of residents opposed to the project, said the group had accepted there was no way to stop the development.

"And, we must face it, there is a need for housing," he said.

They would confine themselves to ensuring the development was controlled, there was strict adherence to aesthetic standards and no temporary structures would be allowed.

If these guidelines were followed, the group would be satisfied, he said.

Mr Jacobs said he did not believe the development would have a strong influence on property values.

Asked about the squatter rumour, Mr Jacobs laughed. He admitted he had heard the story, but ascribed it to malice.

Jean Turban, acting-chairwoman of the Franschhoek Ratepayers' Association, was still not satisfied. It was simply poor zoning to situate low-cost housing in the middle of high-priced properties, she said.

She said the ratepayers' association had not yet decided whether to appeal to Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel if the council gave the project the final go-ahead.

Housing backlog near 1,5m

(135)

CLIVE SAWYER
Weekend Argus ARG 1/4/95
~~Political Correspondent~~

SOUTH Africa's urban housing backlog is close to the 1,5 million mark.

But to date, fewer than 200 000 housing subsidies have been provided.

The Western Cape has an urban housing backlog of 171 542, the fourth highest in South Africa.

According to figures disclosed in the senate by Minister of Housing Sankie Nkondo, the worst backlog was in Gauteng, with a backlog of 566 853 units.

Second highest was Kwazulu/Natal (303 632) followed by the Eastern Cape (150 543).

Replying to a question in the national assembly by Jac Rabie, Ms Nkondo confirmed that the housing subsidy for individuals earning less than R800 a month was increased to R15 000.

This increase would result in additional spending of R173 million in the next financial year, but no subsidies for individuals in terms of the new scheme had been approved yet because the scheme came into effect only on March 15.

But projects already approved could be revised on application to one of the provincial housing boards.

31 hurt in squatter evictions at Grabouw

(307)

ARGUS 5/4/95

ROGER FRIEDMAN and JOHN YELD
Staff Reporters

CHAOS erupted at Grabouw today and at least 31 people were injured as workers began demolishing illegal squatter shacks, under the scrutiny of police.

Police surrounded the illegal squatter area of Melrose Place with razor wire at dawn today, while sheriffs of the court and a private company, backed by hundreds of police and soldiers, began forcibly evicting about 1 000 people, and demolishing their shacks.

When furious squatters stoned police, police opened fire with rubber bullets. A spokesman said "eight to 10" people had been injured by rubber bullets, while other injuries were the result of "mob hysteria" and the razor wire. Two policemen were injured.

Pan Africanist Congress MP Patricia de Lille said 25 people had been shot by police.

Today's drama follows months of conflict over the squatters' refusal to leave land earmarked for low-cost housing.

The evictions halted at midday when the company sub-contracted to carry out the evictions downed tools.

Dozens of shacks had already been demolished with bulldozers and truckloads of building materials transferred to an alternative site when the workers suddenly withdrew their labour.

Hundreds of residents were packing their goods outside their houses awaiting the bulldozers — which suddenly fell idle.

The contractors stood by, watched by police, as residents unloaded trucks that had just been loaded.

The Somerset West company was subcontracted by the sheriff of the court to carry out the eviction order.

The company director, who refused to give his name, was overheard saying on the telephone his men did not feel safe and demanded extra protection.

Police said 510 police assisted by 100 soldiers monitored the situation.

At 12.30pm senior police, the sheriff, the sub-contractor, Ms De Lille and PAC lawyer Cecil Burgess met under a tree.

Mr Burgess said he planned to obtain an urgent interdict to stop the operation.

He said an agreement between regional housing minister Gerald Morkel and residents, in terms of which the minister promised residents an alternative piece of ground, had been broken.

The people intended to leave the area peacefully as soon as they were provided an alternative piece of land.

Illegal occupation — 200 arrested

307

Sowetan 5/4/95

By Joe Mdhlela

■ LEGAL TUSSLE Set to evolve with citizens against the local authority:

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED ABOUT 200 residents of Kudumane, a black residential area outside Kuruman in Northern Cape, for unlawfully occupying a piece of land the residents claim belonged to their forefathers.

A week ago the Kuruman local council obtained an interim court order restraining residents from occupying a piece of land "not developed for residential purposes".

The court order stipulated that the Kuruman Residents' Committee should not "set foot on such area" as it was private property which belonged to the council.

A recent residents' protest saw placards reading: "Dis onse grond", "Ons kom terug huis toe", meaning: "This is our land", "We are coming back home".

Residents claimed they had been forced off their ancestral land in the 1960s when the previous government implemented resettlement policies.

A spokesperson for the residents' committee, Mr Mike Kgosienewang, said the arrest of the protesters would be challenged. He said lawyers were working on the matter.

"It is disgusting that even in this day and age our people are still subjected to harassment and intimidation by police aimed at silencing them," he said.

However, Northern Cape police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Johan Hickman said the police had acted in terms of the interdict.

"We are only enforcing the court order made by the Supreme Court of the Northern Cape," he said.

In his ruling, Judge President Kriek gave an interim verdict which restrained the residents' committee from occupying the land defined as private property belonging to the Kuruman local authority.

The judge ordered the committee to give reasons by April 21 why the order should not be made final.

However, the committee was adamant residents would occupy the land.

"This is a historic matter which pertains to the behaviour of an unjust government which has since been replaced. One fails to appreciate the effect of the judge's pronouncement in the light of available evidence that people had in the past been evicted from their land," Kgosienewang said.

"We are only enforcing the court order made by the Supreme Court of the Northern Cape"

He said as the residents lived in and around Kuruman it was only logical that with the advent of a new political dispensation they might feel duty bound to reclaim the land of their forefathers.

Kgosienewang expressed the hope that the governments of North West and Northern Cape would meet to seek a political solution to the matter.

SWIFT ACCEPTANCE EXPECTED AFTER EASTER

Truth Bill ready for Parliament's approval

CT 6/4/95

DRAFT legislation to establish the Truth Commission has been agreed upon in cabinet, even though the NP opposed several clauses, a **SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT** writes.

THE cabinet yesterday broke the logjam blocking approval for a Truth Commission on apartheid crimes, but rejected a right-wing appeal to amend an amnesty provision.

Cabinet secretary Professor Jakes Gerwel said the cabinet approved a package of compromises which should ensure swift parliamentary approval of the National Unity and Reconciliation Bill.

But he said the cabinet refused to extend the cut-off date for political offences eligible for amnesty from December 6, 1993, to May 10 last year, the date of President Nelson Mandela's inauguration as South Africa's first black president.

"The minister of justice now goes with the cabinet's approval to Parliament to seek approval for the bill," he said.

The decision to approve the legislation is a major breakthrough for the government.

The Truth Commission will investigate human rights violations committed by both the defenders and opponents of apartheid, and investigate and make reparations to victims.

It may also grant amnesty to people who confess to politically-motivated human rights offences committed between 1960 and December 6, 1993.

The cabinet reversed an earlier compromise that proceedings of the amnesty committee be held behind closed doors.

But the committee will be able to agree to a closed hearing if it is in the interests of justice or if there is a chance that a person could be harmed if proceedings are open.

The committee will also be able to deal with cases without a hearing where there has not been gross violations of human rights.

The draft legislation, which is already in the form of a bill, will be fine-tuned and passed when Parliament convenes after the Easter recess.

Sources said that the NP's opposition to several major aspects of the bill was overruled by their ANC counterparts in the cabinet committee. The IFP "had reserved its position on the commission", Prof Gerwel said.

Grabouw shacks moved after clash

(307) CT 6/4/95

ABOUT 12 shacks had been transported to alternative state land by late yesterday as unrest subsided after a clash between squatters and police in Grabouw.

At least 31 people were injured — eight possibly by police rubber bullets — when squatters tried to resist being forcibly removed from their shacks,a police spokesman said.

In terms of a Cape Town Supreme Court ruling, squatters were given until April 1 to move off the land which has been earmarked for informal housing.

The demolition of about 250 shacks is expected to continue today.

About 8am yesterday, police fired rubber bullets and teargas to "ward off" squatters armed with planks, pipes and other objects.

Last night, ANC Western Cape leader Mr Chris Nissen said the Western Cape cabinet had decided to evict the illegal squatters on recommendations of Grabouw's Transitional Local Council. — Crime Reporter, Political Staff



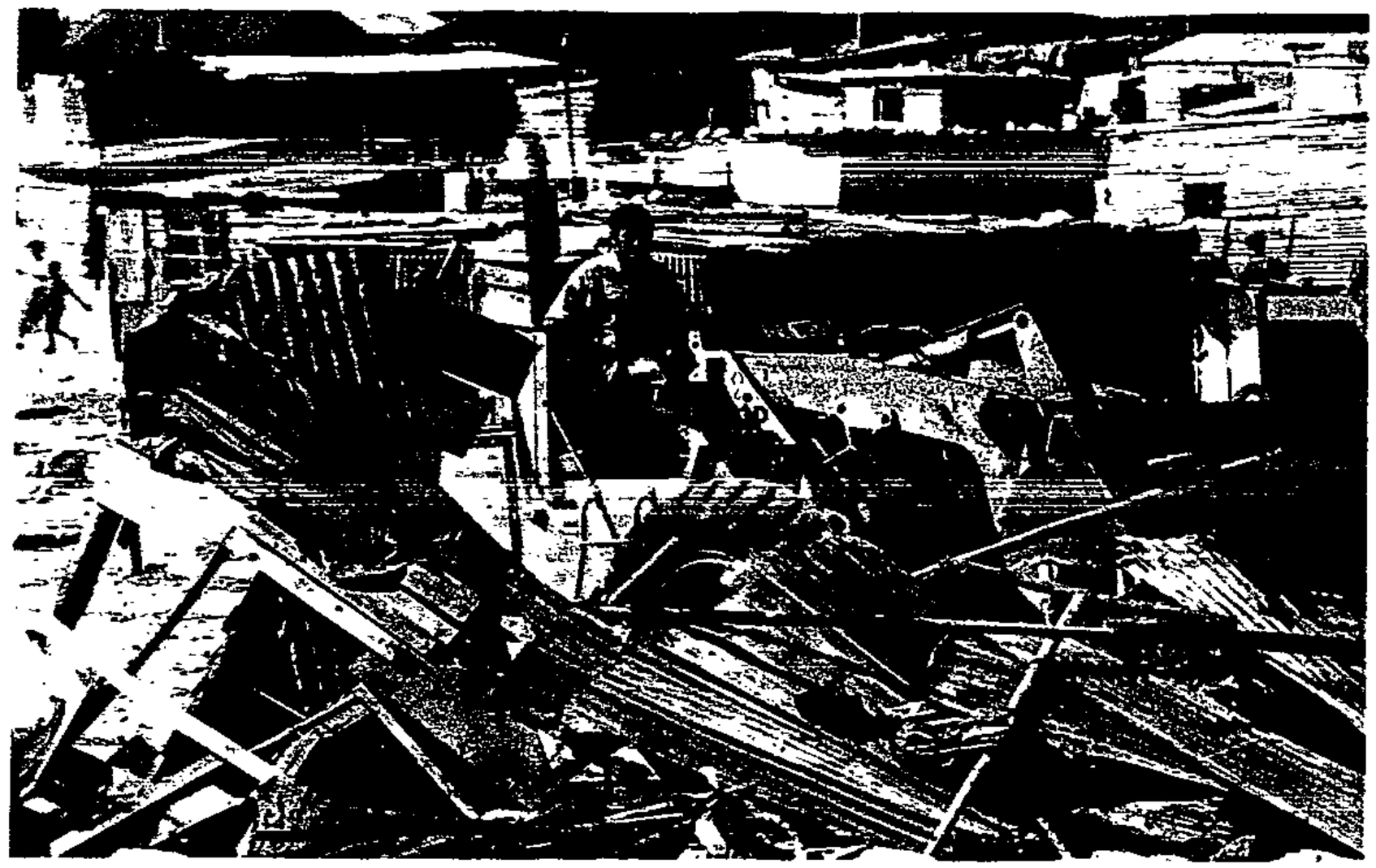
REMOVING POSSESSIONS: The Caledon sheriff sub-contracted the job of evicting about 1 000 Grabouw squatters to a Somerset West company, whose labourers empty a shack of its possessions. Picture: ROGER FRIEDMAN, The Argus.



DEBATE: Discussion between angry residents and police in Melrose Place often got heated. More than 500 police and 100 soldiers were deployed in Grabouw. Pictures: NIC BOTHMA.



DEJECTED: His few possessions scattered around him, this former Melrose Place squatter ponders his future.



REMAINS OF THE DAY: A bulldozer operator makes short shrift of a cluster of shacks, above. About 60 shacks have been demolished, with another 80 due to come down today. Below, police open fire as a crowd of residents try to prevent the demolition of shacks. At least 31 people were injured.



Squatters dazed by intensity of the operation

(307)
ARG 6/4/95

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE 1 000 squatters who illegally occupied land set aside for development in Grabouw three months ago have been facing eviction ever since — but when it came yesterday it took them by surprise.

In spite of a Supreme Court order won a month ago by regional Housing Minister Gerald Morkel and Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel ordering their eviction, the squatters seemed misinformed about their future on the land they dubbed Melrose Place.

Many could not believe that at a time of desperate housing shortages, the government would carry out its threat to break down their homes.

Although most of the illegal structures were crude, they were nonetheless dry, on level ground — and, for most residents, the first property they had "owned".

The intensity of the operation — 510 police and 100 soldiers oversaw the evictions by a Somerset West sub-contractor on behalf of the sheriff of Caledon — took their breath away.

Before first light, police moved in, clearing burning barricades erected by the residents and sealing off the area with razorwire.

But the same thing had happened a month ago, when, after a similar show of force, employees of the company contracted to remove them refused to do so.

Yesterday, the sub-contractors were more serious — although they, too, withdrew their labour briefly.

The labourers, 95 percent of them young white men, returned to work after a 90-minute stoppage.

The police, meanwhile, had handed pamphlets to residents explaining they were not there to break down houses, but to protect everyone and see the interdict was carried out.

But this did not protect them from stones, abuse and spitting.

They retaliated with rubber shot three times.

The squatters were supposed to move to a "transit camp" 300m away and this is where the labourers dumped their damaged possesions and mangled building materials.

But there was more unhappiness over the transit camp — a couple of hectares of mountainous cleared forest, a large part of it clearly a water catchment area in winter.

"We cannot stay in that vlei," said Jakob van Schalkwyk, whose house is likely to be demolished today.

Clifford Petersen said: "The land they want to give us is useless and very wet."

Pensioners Jan and Mickey Williams were evicted from the house they had lived in for many years when Mr Williams retired last year.

"All we want is a little ground, love and Jesus," Mr Williams said.

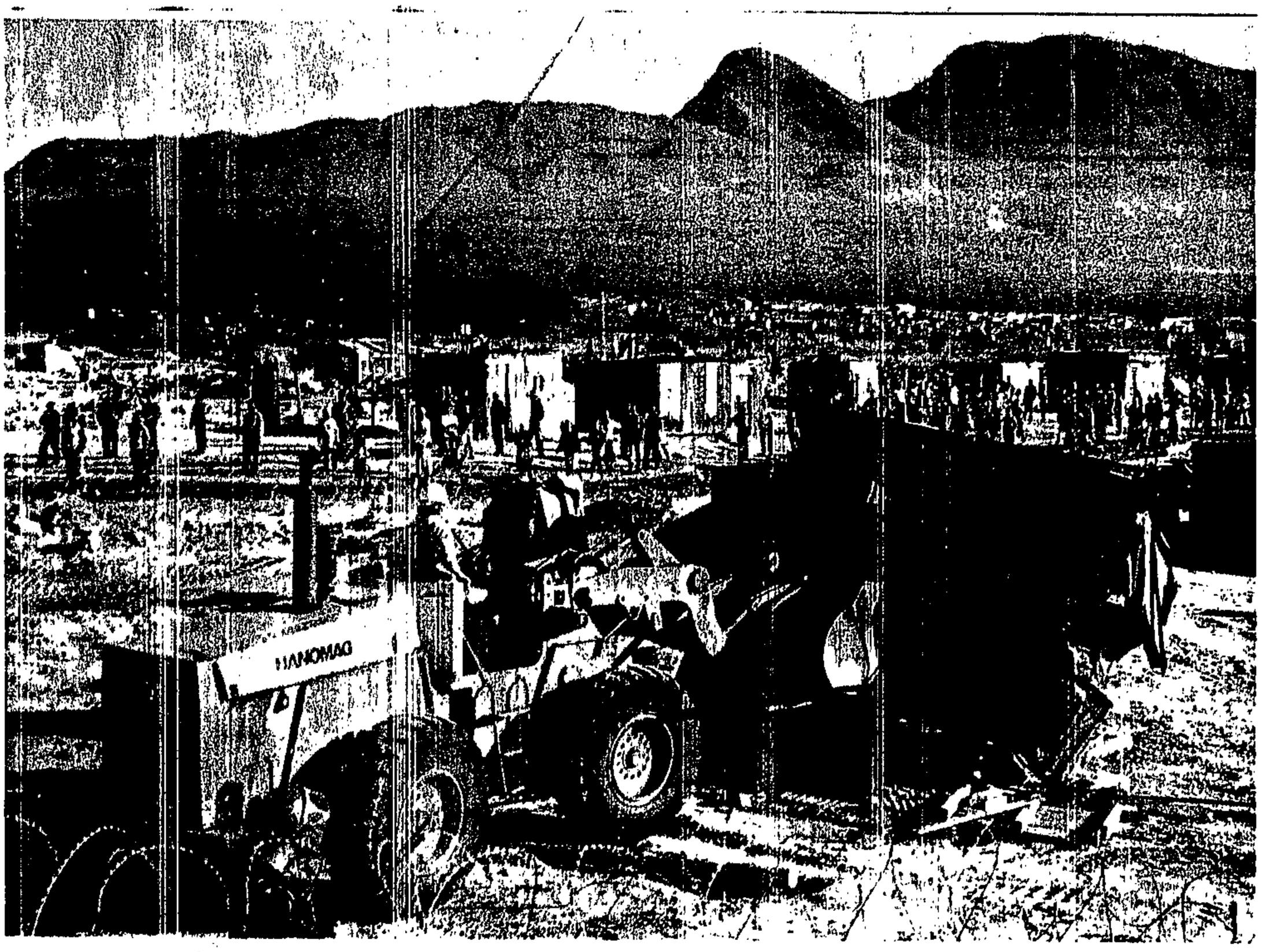
Mr Marinus, Grabouw Community Organisation boss as well as PAC branch leader, was more forthright: "I am ashamed of Minister Morkel. These people are not baboons to be dumped on the mountainside.

"This is a disaster for the whole of South Africa, a return to kragdadigheid."

After the clashes between residents and police early in the day, attempts were made by ANC, PAC, Transitional Council and housing officials to reach Mr Morkel.

Finally, ANC Western Cape leader and regional Economic Affairs Minister Chris Nissen got hold of Mr Morkel, who agreed to allow the squatters to occupy land surrounding the transit camp until the camp had been made suitable for human habitation.

● The evictions continue today and the job is expected to be completed tomorrow.



EVICTED: Shacks illegally erected outside Grabouw three months ago on land earmarked for development are bulldozed as hundreds of police and soldiers stand guard. The eviction of the 1 000-strong community continues today.

Most Grabouw squatters moving to alternative site

(307)

ARG 6/4/95

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

MOST of the squatters illegally occupying land in Grabouw earmarked for development have agreed to move to an alternative site set aside by provincial Housing Minister Gerald Morkel.

Yesterday violence-racked evictions by bulldozer and razor wire gave way to relative calm today as the remaining residents demolished their own structures and moved their belongings.

Earlier today, a group of the squatters threatened to burn down any shacks erected on the despised alternative site.

Yesterday, pandemonium reigned when contractors hired by the sheriff for Caledon set about destroying the Melrose Place camp — home to about 1 000 squatters. More than 30 people were injured in clashes between residents and police.

The eviction of the squatters comes after a court order obtained by Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel and Mr Morkel.

Today squatters moved their belongings to an adjacent street "to get it off province's land". Police gave them until noon to be off the site — and until 3pm to clear the road.

A group of squatters rushed up the hill to warn those already erecting houses on the alternative site that their homes would be razed.

But PAC local chairman Dennis Marinus and NGK board member Chris Vragom persuaded them to join their neighbours for the sake of peace and to prevent further bloodshed.

Agreement had been reached at a meeting last night that the forced evictions of yesterday would give way to voluntary evictions today.

Today's events followed an incident-filled night and an early morning bout of stone-throwing at police.

In another development, African National Congress Western Cape leader Chris Nissen laid charges against a PAC branch official in connection with threats against his life which, he said, had been made in Grabouw yesterday.

● **Report, more pictures, page 3**



Melrose Place squatters vow to fight on from new site

(307)

ARG 7/4/95

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE Grabouw Community Organisation has vowed to continue the struggle for decent housing in the Overberg town.

The organisation's president, Dennie Marinus, who is also the PAC's Grabouw chairman, said the decision by 1 000 Melrose Place squatters to accept their forced removal 300 metres up the road yesterday was a tactical one.

To take on the might of the province, transitional local council, Supreme Court, police and soldiers would be to fight a losing battle, Mr Marinus said.

The squatters finally accepted yesterday that they had no option but to move — after a three-month struggle to remain on the land.

Melrose Park has been set aside for low-cost housing development.

Yesterday, those shacks which had not been bulldozed before a huge police and military presence on Wednesday, were dismantled by their owners.

By last night, about 80 percent of the people had moved. A few stragglers stayed outdoors in the street adjacent to Melrose Place to protect their possessions which could not be moved yesterday.

● The aftermath of the Melrose Place evictions will reverberate through courtrooms in weeks to come.

Eldine Newman, 27 — hit in the eye with a rubber bullet allegedly fired by police on Wednesday night — appears in the Grabouw Magistrate's Court today on a charge of public violence.

She said last night she planned to lay counter-charges against the police. Her spectacles were shattered in the shooting.

Mr Marinus said the squatters might lay charges against the sheriff of Caledon and the company he sub-contracted to carry out the evictions. Buiding material and furniture had been damaged, he said.

The PAC is considering taking regional Housing Minister Gerald Morkel to court for allegedly breaking an agreement to provide a habitable alternative to Melrose Place for the squatters.

ANC regional chairman Chris Nissen is considering charges against a PAC official who allegedly threatened him with a knife.

Police use teargas to ward off Grabouw attackers

(307) CT 7/4/95

CRIME REPORTER

POLICE used teargas and rubber bullets to ward off attackers and received several reports of vehicles being stoned as violence continued in Grabouw yesterday.

A police spokesman said two women, who were slightly wounded when police opened fire to ward off stone-throwers, were arrested in connection with public violence.

A man was arrested earlier in the day after he allegedly set a shack alight and was then thrown into the fire by angry Melrose Place residents.

Violence erupted in Grabouw on Wednesday when contractors, with legal backing, moved in to forcibly remove shacks erected on state land.

The land is being cleared for informal housing.

The spokesman said unrest had subsided by late yesterday and there was only one shack left on the controversial piece of land known as Melrose Place.



Forced removal . . . Grabouw police fire rubber bullets as squatters resist being forcibly removed from their shacks on Wednesday. More than 30 people were injured in the clash. The squatters were resettled at a new site in the Western Cape town yesterday. PICTURE: NICK BOTMA

Grabouw squatters resettled

(307)

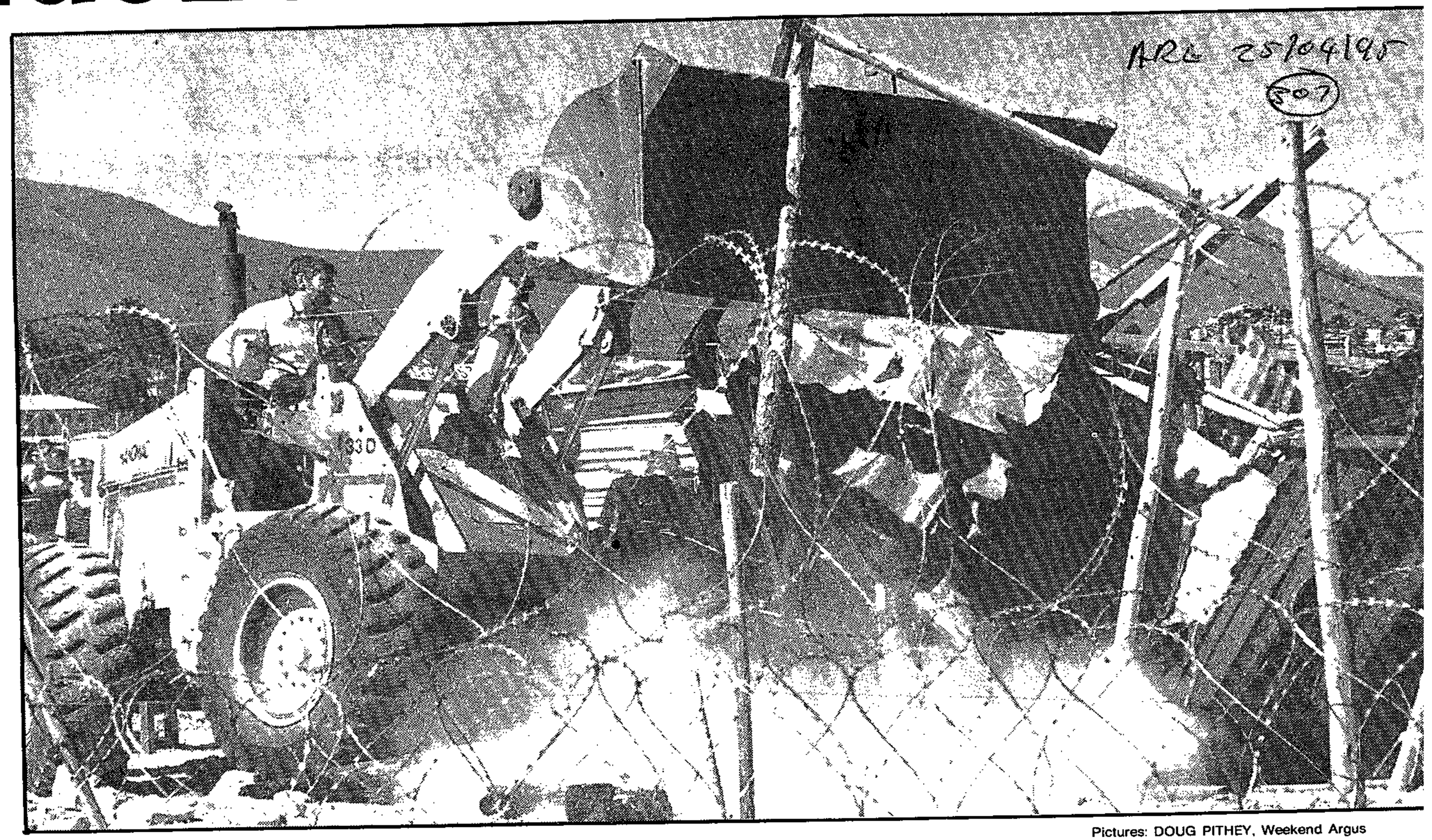
Cape Town — Most of the Melrose Place squatters illegally occupying land in Grabouw, Western Cape, moved yesterday to a new site set aside for them about a kilometre away, Grabouw Community Organisation spokesman Dennis Marinus said.

Their eviction followed a court order obtained by Premier Hernus Kriel and MEC for Housing Gerald Morkel after the squatters failed to comply with an April 1 deadline to remove their shacks. Star 7/4/95

The area was described as calm yesterday, after a clash between police and squatters on Wednesday in which 31 people were hurt.

Police and troops helped squatters move their possessions to the new site. — Sapa.

Bulldozers back to haun



Pictures: DOUG PITHEY, Weekend Argus

□ **DESTRUCTION:** A front end loader does its destructive job on yet another hut as a policeman looks on.

■ It was an unhappy week for Grabouw — for squatters who watched their shacks being demolished, for the police who stood by in numbers incurring the wrath of the community and for race relations in the picturesque Overberg town. **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.

APARTHEID kept communities apart. And though apartheid is dead, it came back to haunt Grabouw.

In the Cape job-reservation and influx control favoured brown-skinned people over black and was probably a major factor in the National Party's sweep to victory in the region last April.

The demise of legislated apartheid had a profound effect on the Western Cape. Hundreds of thousands of rural black people poured south. Critical job and housing shortages resulted.

In rural areas like Grabouw — where white farmers employed coloured labour — things changed dramatically.

Black workers were prepared to work for lower wages and farmers were only too happy to employ them. Unem-

ARG 25/04/95

(307)

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Eviction squad from hell bash for cash!



(307)
ARIT 8/4/95

GRABOUW squatters said those who came to evict them came "straight from hell". In fact, most of them came from Gordon's Bay and Somerset West.

Before first light on Wednesday they gathered on the road leading into the usually sleepy town — white men and youths on trucks, carrying axes, crowbars, sledgehammers and chainsaws.

As the sun emerged weakly over the mist-veiled mountains, a police helicopter droning incessantly overhead, they fidgeted and played pranks on one another, a jocular bunch, 150 strong.

Also, a mysterious bunch. None was saying who they were, where they came from or how they usually filled their days.

On Wednesday they had come to Grabouw to demolish the shacks of about 1 000 squatters who refused to budge from land set aside for a housing development.

They had been recruited by a farmer in the Somerset West district who was sub-contracted by the sheriff for the Supreme Court (Caledon District) to carry out the evictions.

All inquiries as to the origin of the workforce were directed to the man who appeared to be in charge.

But several approaches to the burly, bearded man drew a terse: "No comment."

All that Caledon sheriff A D Bosman would say was that the job had been contracted to a Somerset West sub-contractor.

The first day's work cost the province R300 000 — excluding the cost of deploying 510 policemen and 100 soldiers. Fewer workers were required on days two and three.

The sub-contractor's earlier attempt to demolish the shacks using black labour about a month ago ended farcically, when the workers simply refused to carry out the dirty work.

He had no such problems this week. Indeed, many residents complained that the vigour with which the demolition squad carried out its task was excessive.

They complained that furniture and personal belongings were damaged and building materials destroyed.

According to a source in Somerset West, the workers were paid R200 a day — R100 in wages and R100 in danger pay .

Hard-luck stories abound ...

Neville Andrews was thrown off the farm, where he lived most of his life with his wife and two young children, about four months ago.

"I don't know where I must go now. They told me to leave the farm."

Jan and Mickey Williams spent most of their married life in a house provided by his employer in Grabouw.

But then he retired and the house was allocated to someone else.

"We haven't got anywhere else to go. All we want is a little ground, some love and Jesus," said 67-year-old Mr Williams.

Mr Marnus appealed to the squatters to accept the alternative site offered by Mr Morkel "for the sake of peace". He assured them the struggle for decent land not been forsaken.

A member of the Dutch Reformed Church board, Chris Vraagom, appealed to the residents to stick together.

"Unity is strength. Divisions are exactly what the boere want. Let us give the boere their way now and then see who controls land matters after the November 1 local government elections."

ARG 23/4/95 (50)

ployed coloured folk moved off the land and into town. But there was nowhere for them to stay.

Squatter camps mushroomed, among them Melrose Place where 1 000 residents were forcibly removed this week.

The land had already been earmarked for development when the squatters poured in in January. But most of them had nowhere else to go.

A protracted, often bitter, struggle ensued between the Grabouw transitional local council, political parties and the provincial housing ministry.

New mayor Stanley Shuma had his house burnt down, threats and court applications abounded.

Regional Housing Minister Gerald Morkel offered the Melrose Place residents an alternative piece of land to be used as a "transit camp", until better accommodation could be provided.

The squatters rejected the offer, saying the rocky land was only suitable for baboons. In winter it was a water-catchment area, they claimed.

Mr Morkel issued a final ultimatum two weeks ago: Get out by April 1 or be forced out.

A flurry of urgent meetings followed, but could not prevent the inevitable.

On Wednesday, bulldozers moved in to flatten the shacks.

Residents resisted until the bitter-end and more than 30 people were injured on day one of the evictions.

Finally, the residents agreed to the move, under sufferance, but vowed to continue the fight for decent accommodation. Sporadic skirmishes between small groups of bitter residents and police continued throughout the week.

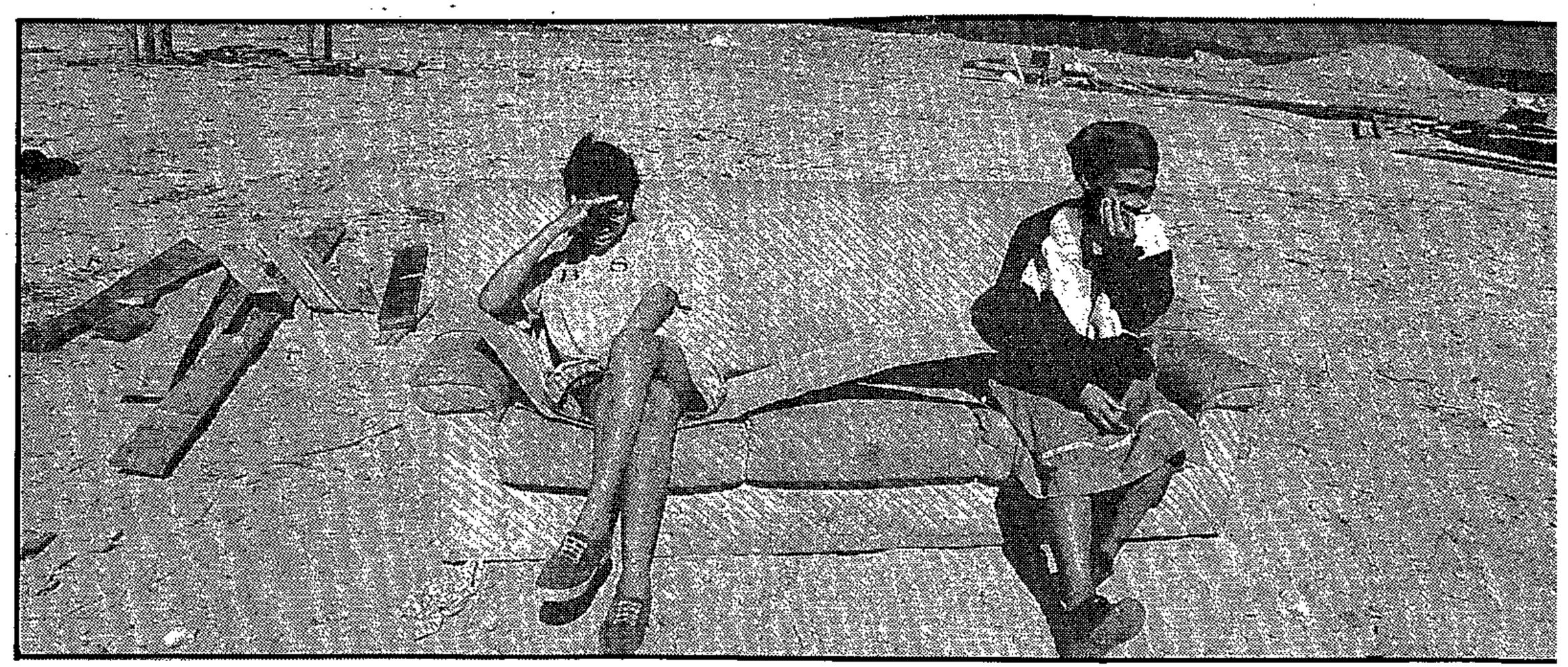
Race was never far beneath the surface as the mess in Grabouw unfolded.

To exacerbate the issue, the company brought in to carry out the evictions, employed young white males — exclusively.

And many of the police, whose only task was to protect the aforementioned employees and to see that the evictions proceeded smoothly, were also white.

Residents perceived both groups as the enemy.

They poured scorn on the police and workers, much of it racially tinged and unsuitable for the pages of a family newspaper.



☐ **DESPAIR:** Two women sit in despair on what remains of their home — a couch.

It did not help that some of the workers appeared to be enjoying themselves.

At one stage, as the bulldozers went about their business, a group of about 100 residents decided that if they could be treated with such contempt, they would wreak havoc on their black and white neighbours in town.

"Why are they not allowing us to stay here, but leaving the Bantus down the road in peace?" one asked.

"We are prepared to pay rent and for services. We are not like them (blacks)."

"In any case," another said, "the alternative site offered by Mr Morkel is too close to the blacks. There will be plenty of murders here."

Ironically, major political support for the squatters came from the PAC — an Africanist organisation — with MP Patricia de Lille and local branch chairman Dennis Marinus at the forefront of their struggle.

Many sported PAC caps and badges.

"Most of these people voted for the NP last April, more than 60 percent of them," said Mr Marinus, formerly of the Democratic Party.

"Now the NP dumps them like this!"

■ WOODSTOCK

Anger over squatters in church

ARG 25/4/95

307

Southern Reporter

THE attempted suicide of a young foreign refugee, who had been squatting in the disused Regent Street church building in Woodstock, has led to renewed demands by Woodstock residents for action to rehabilitate the area.

The young man's attempt to take his own life failed when fellow squatters found him and cut the rope from which he was hanging before he strangled.

The incident, however, has again highlighted the abysmal conditions in the vicinity of the disused church which is usually occupied by more than 250 homeless people.

The building is derelict and the occupants share two toilets, which normally don't work, and a single cold water tap. There is no drainage for the tap.

Dirty water from washing and cooking utensils flows freely in the gutters.

Conditions at the church have attracted a host of vermin including feral cats, pigeons, rats, flies and fleas.

According to members of the Woodstock Neighbourhood Watch the authorities have consistently ignored their representations and calls for action to do something about the issue.

"The Woodstock community has had to contend with a problem that has been dumped, not on its doorstep, but right in its kitchen," said one spokesperson.

"Unhappy residents have made numerous representations to both provincial and local government structures about the squatter/refugee problem on Regent Square — all to no avail.

"At one meeting with officials, in fact, members of the Woodstock Neighbourhood Watch were labelled 'racists'.

"Nothing could be further from the truth, but we are concerned about maintaining standards in our area."

In a memorandum to the Mayor of Cape Town about a month ago, Mr W I Losper, chairperson of the Woodstock Neighbourhood Watch, said property owners and residents wished to highlight the fact that the housing of refugees in the old church had been "thrust on us without prior consultation or approval".

His memorandum continued: "The Regent Square area has become an abomination from which emanate the most foul smells, along with insiduous infestation of flies, which could spread disease of epidemic proportions.

"There have also been numerous reports of male prostitution, drunken and unruly behaviour and of refugees soliciting prostitutes and concluding their sexual activities on the doorsteps of residents.

"All these incidents have been reported to the police. The issues have been discussed with the refugees on numerous occasions.

"Each meeting is concluded with the community being given empty promises and we depart feeling defeated.

"As concerned residents and ratepayers we feel the city council should do something about the situation or ratepayers will be forced to withold their payment of rates."

According to the Woodstock Neighbourhood Watch there has been no reply from the Mayor to date, nor any constructive response to all their numerous other representations to provincial and local government structures.

Land-grab by whites in Namaqualand

307 ST (CM) 4/6/95

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

ILLEGAL land-grabbing by white holiday-makers is seriously threatening negotiations to set up a new national park on Namaqualand's desolate diamond coast.

Whites from as far afield as Pretoria and Swaziland have recently indulged in a spate of pegging, laying claim to land owned by the state, triggering demands for firm and swift action by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom.

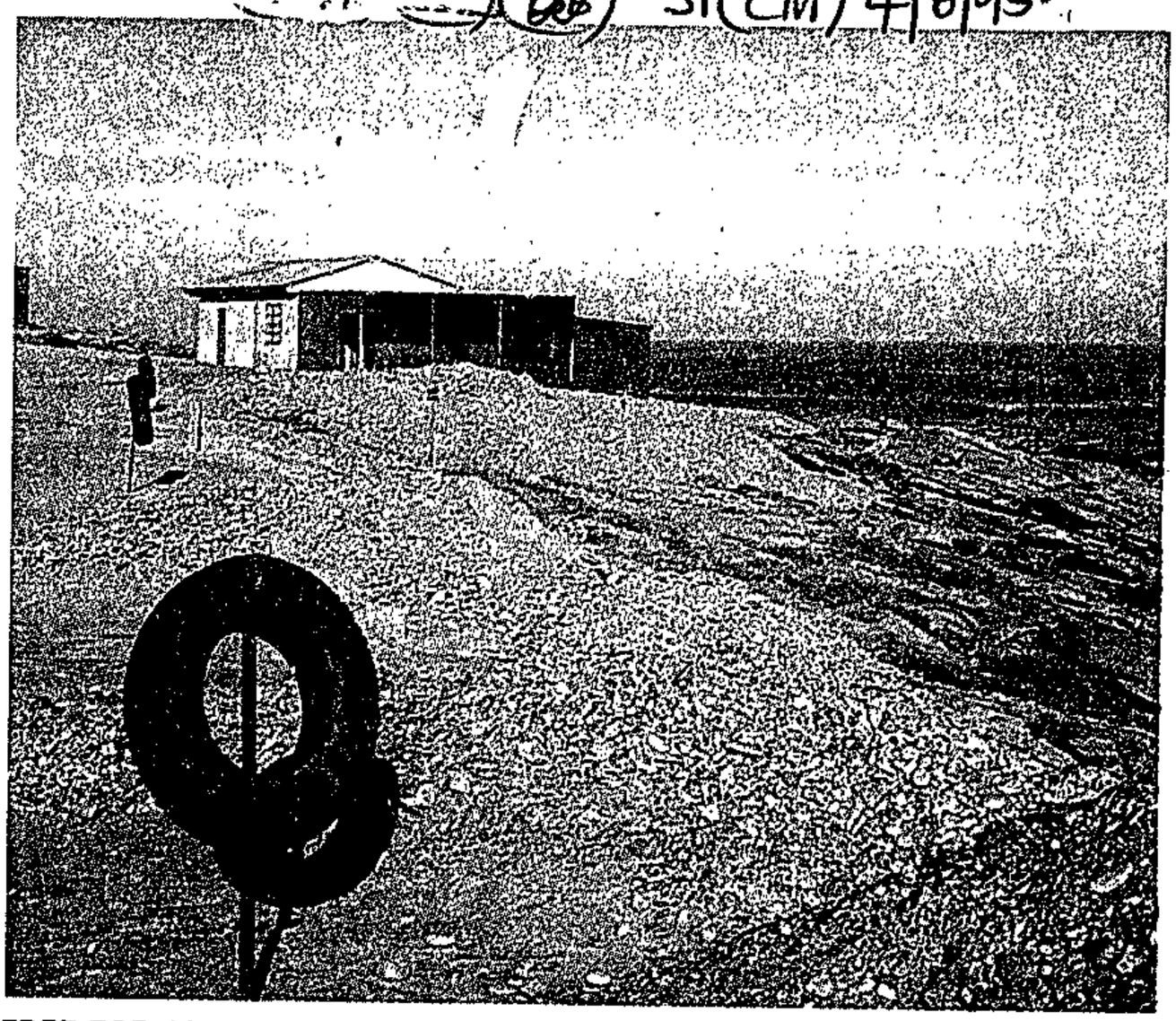
Efforts to negotiate a new park have been threatened by the land dispute, involving white Namaqualand families who have camped there for generations, as well as the latecomers, who have joined in the scramble for what they believe is a chance to obtain free prime seaside plots.

National Parks Board research and development director Anthony Hall-Martin, who slammed the Groenrivier "squatter" settlement, said this week: "We don't want a white slum in the middle of a national park."

Alarmed by the influx, Mr Hanekom has moved to stop any further squatting on state land in the proposed park, which will bracket about 50km of pristine coastline.

The dispute centres on about 100ha of state land south of the Groenrivier, where local whites have built about 30 holiday shacks and others have pegged at least 60 "plots".

Many have placed markers, on which they have written their names and telephone numbers, on the plots which they desire. Most of the prospective "owners" are from the Northern Cape, while some are from as far afield as Pretoria, Swaziland and Namibia.



FREE-FOR-ALL . . . Whites are illegally pegging seaside plots on land owned by the state, threatening sensitive negotiations for a new national park on the Namaqualand coast
Picture: Rachel Wynberg

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Nominal rate

Mr Jan Liebenberg, who pegged a piece of land with his brother-in-law about three weeks ago, said he believed he had a right to free state land for recreation.

"I mean, if (black) guys squat on state land they get it and it's developed."

The owner of a shop between Kakamas and Keimoes, Mr Liebenberg said he had staked his claim after hearing about the "free state land".

While reluctant to do so, he would nonetheless rip up the stakes he had planted if ordered to by the authorities.

The surrounding land is owned by De Beers Namaqualand Mines, which wants to lease it to NPB for a nominal rate. But the plan is being thwarted by the "mushrooming" settlement at Groenrivier, says the mining group's regional manager, Richard Molyneux.

De Beers, the NPB, land affairs departments and local communities are involved with sensitive negotiations on setting up a 35 000ha contractual park which includes Groenrivier, the only permanent estuary in the area.

Mr Molyneux says recent squatting and pegging suggested a systematic process involving apparently professional surveying skills.

Unchecked squatting at Groenrivier could set a dangerous precedent for illegal occupation of other state land on the isolated Namaqualand coast.

"If this is not stopped, it will block the process of establishing a national park on the country's most unspoilt coastline," Mr Molyneux said.

"All tourism and economic potential will be lost because a group of selfish people want to sit in shacks for a few weeks a year."

But Mr Jasper Nieuwoudt, a Namaqualander by birth, said a section 21 company representing aspirant landowners would resolve the problem of disorderly development.

While angry with "latecomers" who have put up unsightly plastic and tin shacks, staked plots and littered the area, he says most of them support his business plan.

He said he had 150 volunteers committed to pledge R10 000 each towards the section 21 company which would end the current "free-for-all" and take over from the Charies municipality's "pathetic" plans to develop the site.

An exclusive settlement could link up with the NPB's plans and ensure environmentally-sensitive development.

He denied rumours of a rightwing, volkstaat-type trek to the coast.

Dr Hall-Martin said selfishness was the bottom line of the squatters' land drive.

De Beers had offered them alternative land south of the park border, but this had been turned down, he said.

"They're stealing something from the nation for their own relaxation."

Mr Hanekom, who is keen to ensure that the park goes ahead, will be meeting the various stakeholders at Groenrivier on July 1 in an attempt to resolve the impasse.

IN the pale autumn sunlight, the children — many of them barefoot — are still playing happily outside in the sand.

But when the first winter storms strike later this month, they will have to huddle together inside the single container that serves as a playroom and kitchen — all 46 of them, ranging in age from just over a year to five, as well as several mothers who act as voluntary assistants.

They are all part of the 300-strong community that lives in about 75 shacks in the Vygieskraal informal settlement in Athlone.

It's a desperately poor area, wracked by problems such as unemployment, tuberculosis and alcohol abuse, and there's just one tap to serve all the families.

When The Argus accompanied Child Welfare Society social worker Monica Matai on a mid-morning visit there, small groups of adults were sitting around outside many of the shacks.

"You can see that the majority of people who live here are unemployed. They are the poorest of the poor," she said.

"They use too much alcohol, and there's also TB because there are no proper facilities."

The Vygieskraal Project is a pre-school started to help those parents who have managed to find work.

It's not a safe area to leave youngsters on their own — there are no formal roads, but cars and bakkies drive through the area, and there are a number of shebeens which attract undesirables.

And in winter there's water in the canal.

The donated container which forms the school "building" is neat and tidy.

Plastic chairs are stacked up in one corner, and the kitchen area used to prepare porridge for the children is kept spotless.

But it's small — and must be almost unbearably claustrophobic when everyone is crammed inside during wet weather.

"There was no playground for the children, so we've tried to put up a fence around this container so that they will be safe," Ms Matai said.

Dora Moses, one of the voluntary workers at the pre-school, recalls last winter.

"It was a bit wet around here and there were pools of standing water," she said with understatement.

It is sometimes a problem finding enough food for all the children and having to prepare it when they're all crowded into the container, said co-volunteer worker Sophia Philips.

"They get very hungry.

"And shoes and clothes are also a problem — as you can see, many of them have no jerseys, and some of them don't have shoes.

"They come just as they are, and last year in winter they got very cold.

"Then the Red Cross arrived with clothes and blankets, and that helped."

Ms Matai said they were trying to find another container to enlarge the school.

"It's very unhealthy to have 46 children in here and the mothers cooking for them all at the same time."

● Part 2 tomorrow describes the plight of Cape Town's street children and some of the projects which have been set up to help them. They will also benefit from The Argus Warm Hearts Campaign.

MOPPING UP: Two Marconi Beam residents, left, wait outside while a third tries to get rid of floodwater that has turned the inside of their shack into a dam.

□ □ □

ACROSS THE GULF: A resident of an informal settlement, right, tries to keep her feet dry while moving between shacks. Winter brings hardship and misery to most of the residents in these areas.



5/06/95

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WATER EVERYWHERE: Winter deluges turn the Cape of Good Hope into the Cape of Floods. These Macassar residents, left, managed to remain good-humoured while splashing their way home.

□□□

DESPERATE FOR WARMTH: There was an unusually balmy start to winter, but it's a betting certainty this will change and that scenes like this, right, — freezing children huddling around a brazier — will be repeated in scores of informal settlements in all parts of the Peninsula.



(307) ARG 5/6/95

Winter has arrived at the Cape of Storms. For many Cape Town residents, it heralds the start of the Rugby World Cup — even if they haven't been able to get tickets for Newlands on Thursday, there will be friendship and comfort in front of television sets in warm lounges or snug, dry pubs. But for thousands of the city's less privileged, this winter will bring cold, damp and misery. The Argus, in association with the Community Chest, Protea Hotels and Pick 'n Pay Discount Stores, today launches its Warm Hearts Campaign to help some of these unfortunate people cope with winter by collecting cash, clothing and blankets. Here, in the first of a scene-setting series, Staff Reporter JOHN YELD looks at some of the likely beneficiaries — individuals and organisations — of the campaign.

The Argus

WARM HEARTS • UBUBELE WARM HARTE

CAMPAIGN

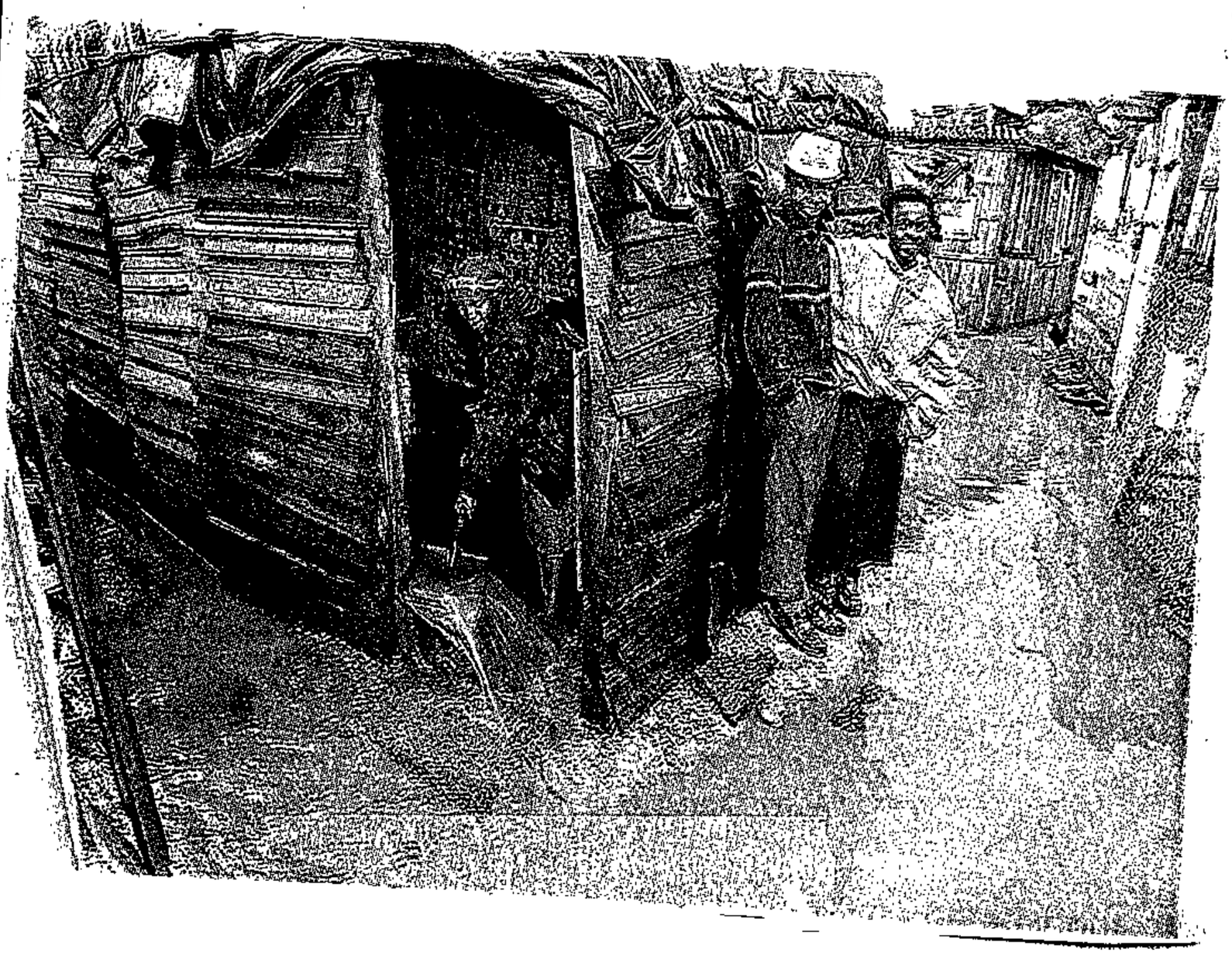
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winter smile to the poor





Bringing a warm

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■ WESTLAKE

Call for squatters to be properly housed

(307)

ARG 5/6/95

Staff Reporter

THE Westlake squatter community currently living near the corner of Steenberg Road and the Blue Route freeway should be properly housed within Westlake, it was agreed at a meeting of the Kirstenhof Ratepayers' Association late last week.

More than 200 ratepayers attended the meeting in the Kirstenhof Primary School hall.

The meeting also agreed that the Ark City of Refuge should be reduced to 300 residents and that the area should be properly planned as soon as possible.

Earlier in the evening, details of a survey commissioned by the province were given by Mr Nigel Burls of architects and planners, MLH.

Mr Burls said his company had investigated 13 sites as a possible permanent home for more than 530 people living in about 170 shacks in the squatter camp.

Some of the sites had been rejected by the architects and planners and others by the squatter community itself. It was found that Westlake would be the best option with vacant sites in Retreat and Steenberg as two viable alternatives.

Mr Burls said in his opinion Westlake was am enormous asset "going down the tubes." Proper planning was an urgent necessity following years of neglect.

MLH had been asked to draw up a master plan for Westlake which had been given to the department two years and "shelved."

Included in Westlake was the technical college which had buildings in an excellent state of repair, but which desperately needed to expand. There were two hospitals, the D P Marais convalescent hospital which was over utilised and needed more space and the Westlake Hospital which, in spite of having buildings in excellent repair, was under utilised — some of its buildings were empty.

Apart from Die Bos squatter camp near the freeway, squatters had also occupied PWD buildings, the "married quarters" and the "pigeon loft". Those occupying the married quarters and the pigeon loft were former residents of the Ark City of Refuge which occupied PWD buildings in Westlake and housed more than 1 000 destitute people.

Mr Burls said although the Ark did a magnificient job, an option which should be investigated for the future planning and development of Westlake was either moving the Ark to another location or reducing its size and the major impact it had on the rest of Westlake.

Other vacant buildings in Westlake had either been vandalised or were at present being demolished by the PWD because some were dangerous and others to prevent their occupation by more squatters.

Mr Burls said also holding up decisions on Westlake was the fact that who actually owned Westlake was apparently unclear and expert legal opinion on ownership was expected within the next two weeks.

Chairman of the Kirstenhof Ratepayers' Association, Rob Knapp, said what was worrying ratepayers was the fact that the squatter camp was increasing in size at an alarming rate and ratepayers believed the Ark in spite of its good works, was a major part of the problem.

Valkenberg squatters told to go

(307)

ST(CM) 25/6/95

By AYESHA ISMAIL

MORE than 100 homeless people who have been occupying a disused ward at Valkenberg Psychiatric Hospital for the past six months were this week ordered by Western Cape Health and Social Services Minister Ebrahim Rasool to leave the premises.

About 50 squatters moved into the forensic wing at Christmas time and their number has since increased to more than 100.

In a letter addressed to the "occupiers of ward 31", Mr Rasool said their continued occupation of the premises was "illegal" and "disruptive".

Squatters ordered ARG 26/6/95 to quit (307) mental Hospital

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS occupying a ward at Valkenberg Hospital have been ordered to leave by Saturday or face expulsion.

In a letter to the squatters, Western Cape Health and Social Services Minister Ebrahim Rasool said their occupation of Ward 31 was illegal and disruptive of the hospital's primary function as a psychiatric institution.

He alleged that patients at the hospital — some of them criminals sent for observation — were getting drugs and alcohol from squatters or people visiting them.

Valkenberg Hospital is home to people with a variety of mental illnesses, and their being at Valkenberg is an attempt to treat and rehabilitate them in an environment which is secure, calm and stable," said Mr Rasool.

"Your presence detracts from this atmosphere.

"There is no longer controlled entry, there have been destabilising activities and staff feel threatened."

An uncontrolled situation where drugs and alcohol were finding their way to patients in the forensic ward was unacceptable.

"The forensic ward, which is close to Ward 31, is home to patients referred to Valkenberg Hospital by the police and the courts. They are there for psychiatric observation as part of the criminal justice system.

"Many of these patients claim, for example, temporary insanity on the basis of alcohol and drug abuse."

Ward 31 was not big enough for the number occupying it.

"This creates an unacceptable health hazard in a hospital."

Mr Rasool said he had heard of the squatters' plans for special projects.

"I am on record as supporting your bid to manufacture and sell goods during the World Cup Rugby tournament.

"I have also asked my social services department to urge you to register as a welfare organisation.

"So far you have not done so and this merely delays your accountability to the public for funds handled by you. It also delays our ability to consider financial and other support for your projects."

In spite of the merits of their programmes and projects, the squatters had to move by July 1, Mr Rasool said.

His department had negotiated alternative accommodation.

The Homestead was willing to take the children while the adults would be given room at The Ark, he said.

■ HOUT BAY

Fears of forced removals from village allayed

(307)

ARG 29/6/95

☐ *But plots delayed by funds freeze*

Staff Reporter

IMIZAMU Yethu, the informal settlement in Hout Bay, is bursting at the seams.

But the fears of some of its 4 000 residents that they will be forced to move from the area because of a shortage of land are unfounded, according to village leaders.

Should any move take place, it will be to new serviced plots in the village, as soon as the plots become available, say Terror Ntwalana and Sheila Klaas, who are active in Imizamu Yethu's civic association and the housing action committee.

When Southern Argus interviewed Mr Ntwalana and Miss Klaas, both dispelled claims that residents had been told they would have to leave the village, or that they would be forcibly removed.

The claims came from a resident who has lived in the village since 1991.

She said the "committee" told some residents they would have to leave because there would not be enough land for everybody.

Miss Klaas said: "We told residents who live on the old plots that they would have to move to new plots, but there are no plots available at the moment."

The old plots have no toilets or water. Six families share a temporary toilet and there is one tap for 100 people.

Mr Ntwalana said: "We told residents that if they had stayed here for more than five years they were entitled to a plot.

"There are no plots available now. We are still waiting for the development of phases 3 and 4, which is on hold because the Cape Provincial Administration said funds were frozen and we had to reapply for further development."

Phases 1 and 2 were completed at the end of last year.

But Mr Ntwalana said there was no room for outsiders as the village was already filled to capacity.

Several people in the settlement are seeking work and Mr Ntwalana has a list of names of skilled job-seekers and matriculants.

He plans to teach residents to drive and has appealed for a car, or for someone to provide a car which he is prepared to pay off.

Employers or anyone who is able to donate a car should contact Mr Ntwalana at ☎ 790 1799.

Police fire birdshot, teargas at squatters

(307)

ARG 29/6/95

NORMAN JOSEPH, Staff Reporter

POLICE fired teargas and birdshot to disperse about 200 squatters in Grabouw today as municipal workmen started to break down shacks at the contested Melrose Place site.

At least one man was arrrested for hindering police and another was taken in a private vehicle for treatment after being severely beaten on the arm with a baton.

The squatters, who were evicted by court order recently from the vacant site, moved back from Snake Park earlier this week.

Today, they repeatedly tried to rebuild shacks after these had been broken down by the municipal officials.

Melrose Place has been earmarked for a R20 million low-cost housing project by the provincial housing ministry.

By mid-morning, the workmen had demolished nearly all of about 100 structures, using picks and axes.

A strong force of about 90 policemen prevented the squatters from interfering with the work.

The atmosphere was tense and at one point police fired teargas and birdshot to disperse the squatters after a scuffle. No injuries were reported from the shooting.

The squatters then grouped on the edge of the property, singing and shouting and swearing at police and municipal officials.

Material from the broken down shacks was placed in municipal trucks.

Later, the crowd grew to about 400, and there was more fighting between squatters, police and municipal officials as the squatters repeatedly attempted to rebuild.

Police spokesman Gert Cilliers said he had instructions from Grabouw town clerk Valdo Dudley — who earlier this week laid charges of trespass against the squatters — to protect the workers.

Mr Dudley confirmed laying criminal charges of trespass against the squatters for re-invading the land.

The Grabouw Community Organisation and the Pan Africanist Congress were reported to be seeking a court interdict to prevent the 200 squatters from being moved again.

Squatters asked to help foot bill

(~~R3~~ 307)

STAFF REPORTER

CT 29/6/95

SQUATTERS in Franschhoek have been encouraged to pay something towards municipal services in terms of the Masakhane campaign.

Town clerk Mr Meyer Siebrits said 95% of the 2 000 squatters did not pay for rubbish removal, water-borne sewerage, street lighting and water.

Over 20 shacks share communal water and toilet facilities. Rubbish is removed from each shack.

Service provision costs the municipality R27, 22 per shack per month, he said.

At a meeting between the municipality, the Franschhoek Ratepayers' Association and the Franschhoek Civic Association last weekend, squatter leaders were asked to find out how much squatters could contribute towards their monthly service bill.

Mr Siebrits stressed the squatters were asked "what they could afford to pay for services".

Squatters rebuild shacks

ARG 30/6/95 (307)

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS whose dwellings were demolished by the Boland town's municipality yesterday defiantly re-erected their shacks during the night.

By early today about 10 shacks had been rebuilt entirely and another three or four were under construction.

Today, there was no sign of police and a small group of squatters stood around outside their shacks warming themselves in front of a brazier.

Police fired teargas and birdshot to disperse the squatters yesterday as the municipal workmen started to break down shacks at the contested Melrose Place site.

The squatters, who were evicted by court order from the vacant site, moved back from Snake Park earlier this week.

Yesterday they repeatedly tried to rebuild shacks broken down by the municipal officials.

Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) MP Patricia de Lille appealed yesterday to the squatters not to interfere with the demolition process.

Mrs De Lille said last night: "We were going to apply for a court interdict to prevent the municipality from demolishing the shacks but we decided against that.

"We have material to build 45 shacks."

She said talks between the Grabouw Community Organisation (Graco) and the municipality had broken down. They had expected the municipality to allocate 261 plots to squatters. There are at least 880 plots available.

"Every time they break down the shacks, we will rebuild them."

● Melrose Place has been earmarked by the provincial housing ministry for a R20-million low-cost housing project.



CONFRONTATION: Squatters taunt police after their shacks were demolished.



DESTROYING SHACKS: Grabouw municipal workers break down the last remains of a structure.

Squatters vow to stay

(307)

STAFF REPORTER CT 30/6/95

SQUATTERS at Valkenberg Hospital have vowed to remain in the buildings they have been occupying for the past six months despite an eviction notice from Health and Social Services Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool.

The notice comes into effect tomorrow.

Mr Rasool said at a news conference yesterday alternative accommodation had been found at the Ark and the Homestead for the families and street children.

Squatter leader Mr Vaughn Jacobs and 140 adults and children have been living in Ward 13 at the hospital since December.

"We will not move. There have been allegations that we supply patients with drugs and alcohol. We don't, but we discovered people living in the bush who do.

"The people don't like the Ark. They will be forced to go there and the next day they will leave because they are unhappy," Mr Jacobs said.

Mr Rasool said his first responsibility was to the staff and patients "that have been entrusted to our care. If the squatter resist, our last resort will be to go to court.

"The unoccupied buildings at Valkenberg will be used for projects connected with mental health," he said.

Boland police, squatters clash

(307)

POLICE and Grabouw squatters clashed yesterday after the local municipality demolished new shacks at the controversial Melrose Place site, earmarked for a R20 million low-cost housing project.

Reports differed, however, over what happened after contractors began to break down the homes.

According to one unsourced report, about 90 policemen prevented squatters from stopping the demolition of some 100 shacks, and fired teargas and birdshot when a scuffle broke out.

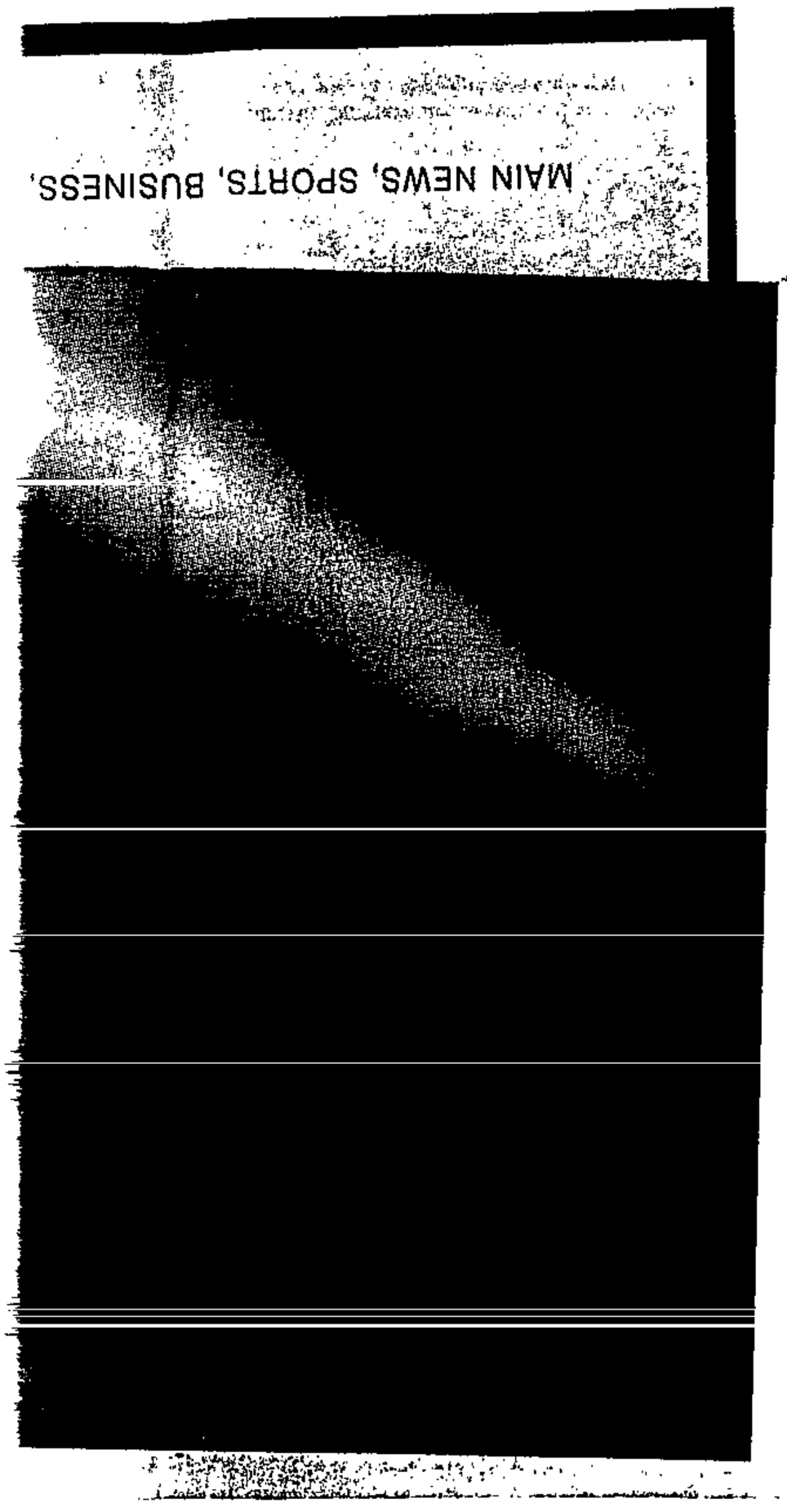
Protection

ET 30/6/95

But a police spokesman denied this, saying 40 members of the internal stability division had protected municipal contractors when they demolished about 10 shacks.

Two shock grenades were thrown when about 60 people who marched to the Grabouw municipality refused to disperse.

The spokesman denied that teargas and birdshot were fired. — Staff Reporter, Sapa



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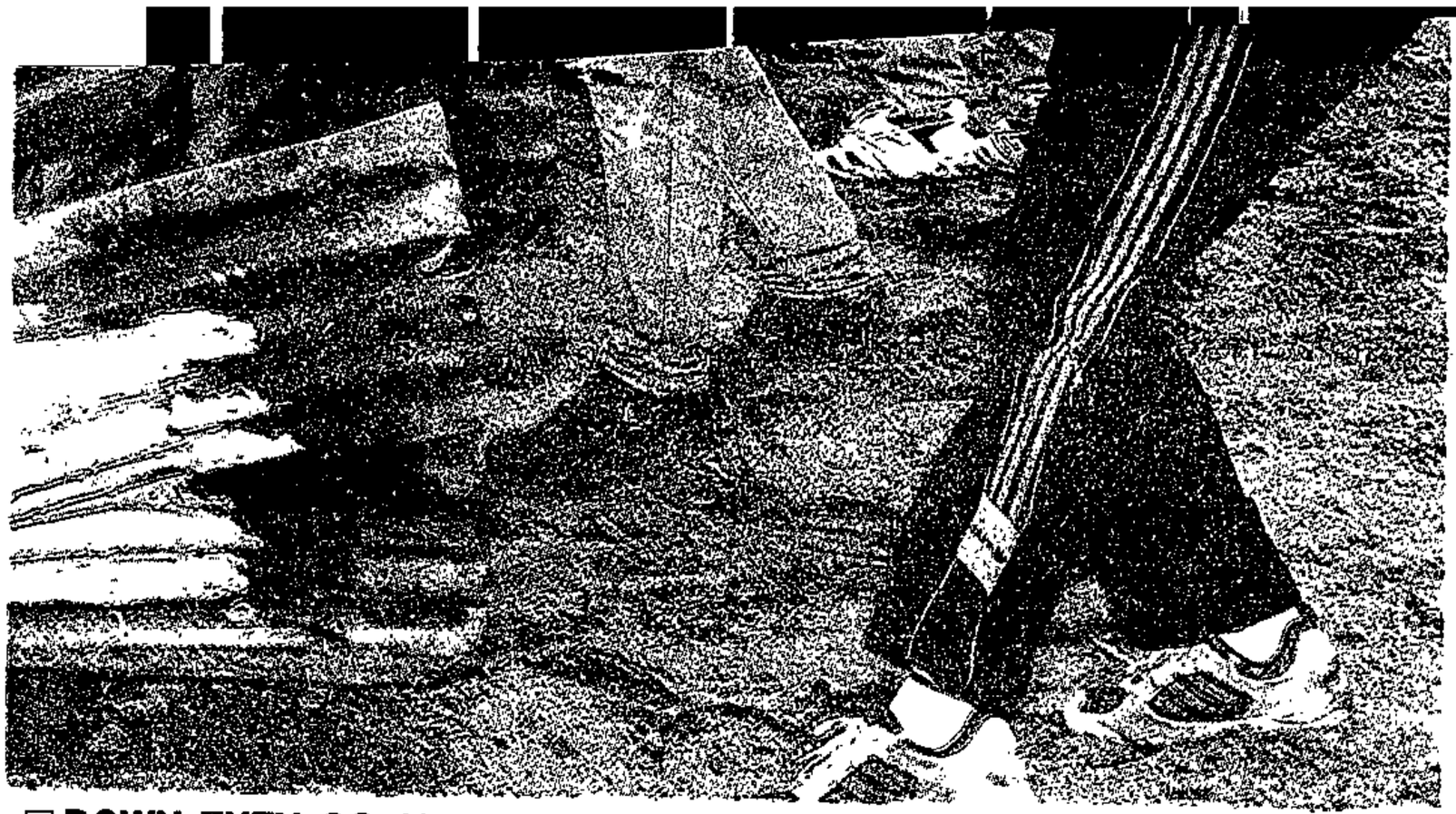
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The spokesman denied that teargas and birdshot were fired. — Staff Reporter, Sapa



☐ **DOWN THEY GO:** Youths sub-contracted by the Grabouw municipality make short shrift of squatter shacks illegally erected on land set aside for development.

young boys from the wrath of the squatter community.

Yesterday, when the demolition squad tore down shacks for the second consecutive day — after they had been rebuilt during the night — police fired volley after volley of teargas to subdue stone-throwing squatters.

The land has been set aside for low-cost housing. Erven could be allocated as early as next week, according to municipal authorities.

The continued use of white boys to carry out the highly controversial job of destroying houses adds a racial tinge to an already politicised, complicated and highly volatile situation.

Young whites were employed initially in April — when Melrose Place was first cleared of squatters — after black labour refused to carry out what they saw as dirty work.

Racial slurs were hurled at police, and white bystanders yesterday, while some squatters threatened to take revenge by stoning "whites' cars" in the town.

The use of highly impressionable youths under dangerous and racially-strained circumstances has raised concerns in the community.

In spite of several inquiries by SATURDAY Weekend Argus, it remains a mystery as to who the youngsters are and who employs them.

It is known that the contractor used to demolish the shacks comes from the Somerset West area, but he has refused to identify himself or his company. The youngsters also have refused to comment.

According to a reliable source, members of the demolition squad are paid R200 a day — half of it, "danger pay".

Pressed for details of the squad last night, Grabouw town clerk Valdo Dudley said the municipality took control of Melrose Place from the provincial administration last week — and inherited the demolishers with the land.

Mr Dudley said: "Basically, this was the only contractor available to do the job. I only deal with the contractor, who he brings along is his business."

Yesterday was the third time demolishers evicted the same group of squatters. And, they have vowed to continue re-occupying the land, regardless of how often their shacks are demolished.

As heavy storm clouds gathered over the picturesque Overberg town, the young white boys moved in to destroy the shacks at 3pm.

About 40 shacks were demolished on Thursday. About 15 were rebuilt during the night.

Immediately after the police withdrew, shacks once again started to sprout from the

ARG
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Schoolboy shack busters

Race tension at squatter camp

ARG 1/7/95

(307)



■ The use of white youths, some minors, to demolish squatter shacks near Grabouw, while heavily-armed policemen stood guard, has sent shockwaves through the community.

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

A DEMOLITION squad of civilian white youths — many of them schoolboys — is being used to bash down squatter shacks illegally erected on land they call Melrose Place near Grabouw.

A heavy police cordon is being used to protect the

Out, Valkenberg squatters told

(307)

JENNY VIALL
Staff Reporter

ARG 11/7/95

TODAY is the deadline for the Valkenberg Hospital squatters to leave the hospital grounds they are occupying illegally or face court action. About 130 squatters have been occupying Ward 31 for six months.

Head of the so-called Leo project (Learn to Earn and to Own), Vaughn Jacobs, said the squatters would not leave. Indications from other squatter leaders are that the group will not go without a fight.

At a Press briefing Minister of Health and Welfare in the Western Cape, Ebrahim Rasool, said that although the Leo project operated ostensibly for streetchildren, investigations had found only about six of the squatters were streetchildren.

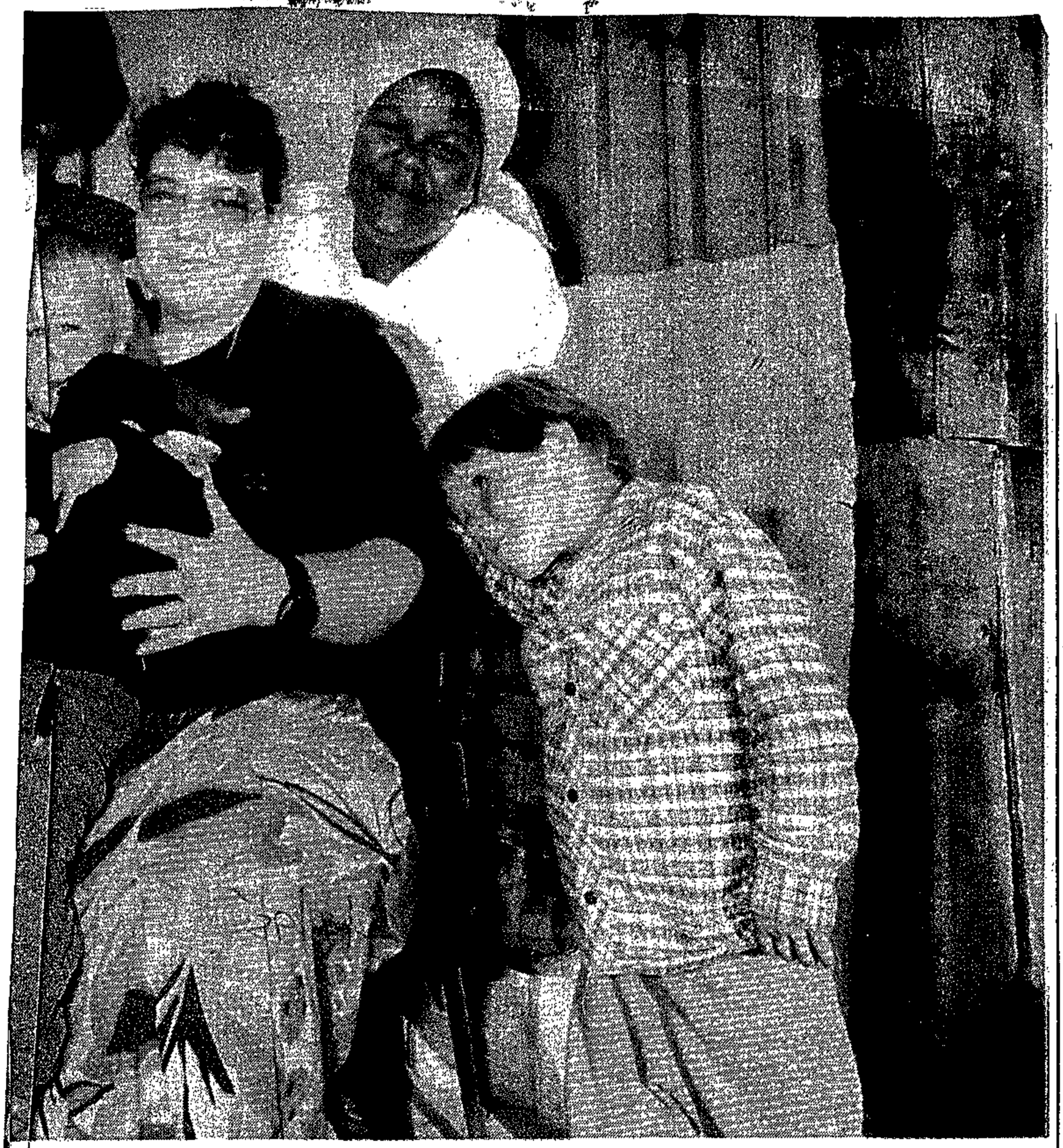
"They have pulled the wool over our eyes."

The Leo project had been asked to register as a welfare organisation and Mr Rasool said his department would be willing to support it.

The unoccupied buildings at the hospital should be used for projects connected to mental health — such as halfway houses for psychiatric and mental patients needing to live in a protected environment.

Mr Rasool said the decision to move the squatters was not taken lightly. "We will continue dealing with this in a sensitive way and give the Leo people the option of moving voluntarily. We will provide transport and assistance if necessary."

He said The Ark and the Homestead had agreed to take the people in.



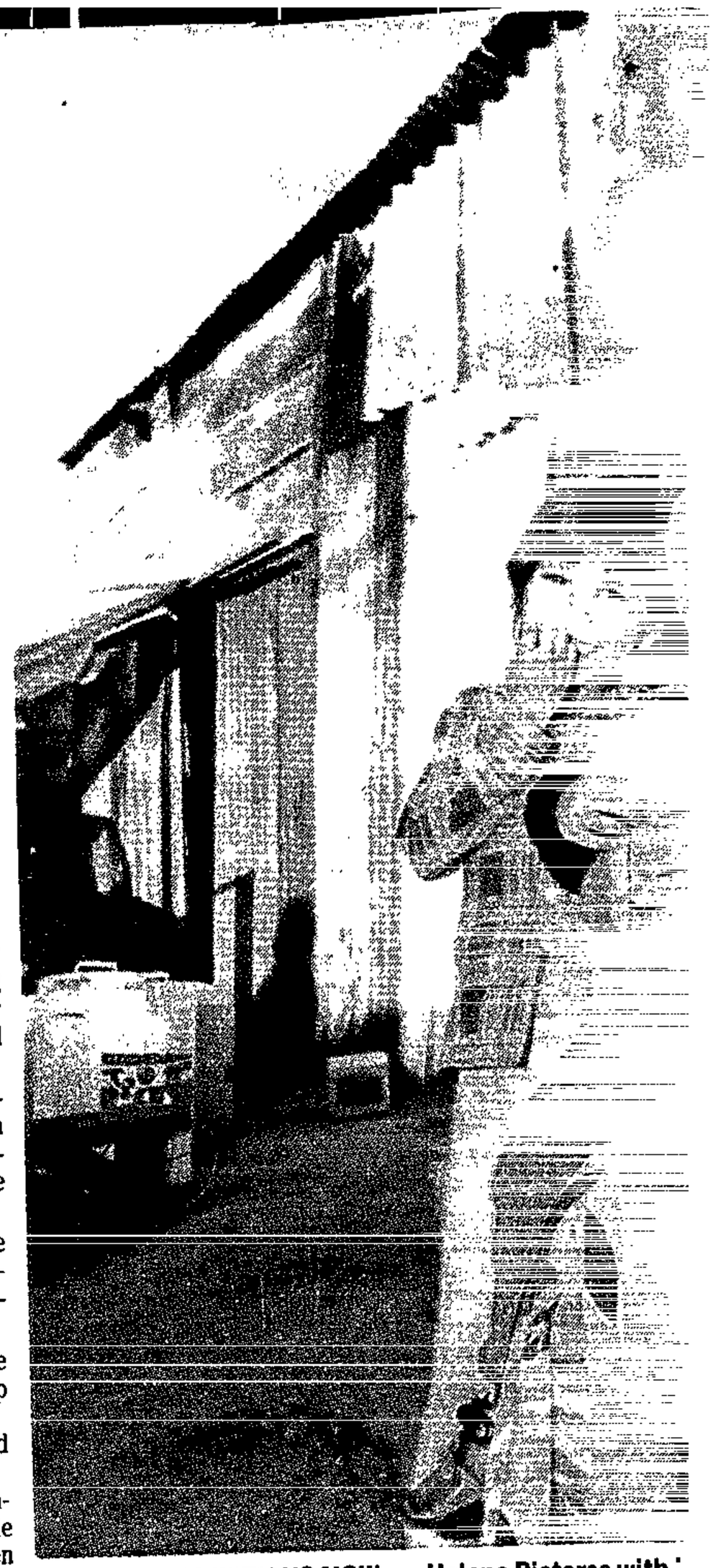
r tee children and two of the women who befriended the family Pictures: SALVELIO MEYER



2/07/05

(30?)

Poor squatter camp takes a starving family into its bosom



YOU BELONG WITH US NOW . . . Helena Pieterse with

By RYAN CRESSWELL

HELENA PIETERSE had no one to turn to when her husband left her destitute on a smallholding near Port Elizabeth.

With three small children to feed and no home, she ended up in a squatter settlement. Welcomed with open arms, she and her family are being looked after by people, most of whom earn less than R40 a month.

Members of the Corporasie Village squatter camp near Thornhill, about 50km south of Port Elizabeth, took Helena and her three children in without question about two months ago.

They gave the desperate little group a yellow two-room hut and clothes, bread, vegetables and even hard-earned money.

Mrs Pieterse, who is slightly stunned by the circumstances in which her family now find themselves, has been amazed by their generosity.

"I never thought I would live in a place like this. I was born in quite a conservative mining town," she said.

Most people in the camp of 260 families work as seasonal farm labourers or grow and sell their own vegetables. There is no electricity or running water in the camp so people spend a large part of their days collecting firewood and water.

But their warm-hearted generosity seems boundless and they do everything they can for Mrs Pieterse, 27, and her children, Laurette, 6, Marizaan, 4, and Hannes, 2.

Mrs Pieterse's husband, Hannes, a 27-year-old carpenter, was retrenched from a mine in Bophuthatswana last November and the family moved to a farmhouse near Thornhill.

But about two months ago Mr Pieterse — who suffers from severe depression — disappeared, leaving his wife and children in desperate straits.

Mrs Pieterse said: "A friend told me about this place and they agreed to help me and gave me a small house.

"These people are very generous and friendly."

Goodman Gqamane, one of the community's leaders, said people in the settlement often gave Mrs Pieterse R10 and fetched the family water in a wheelbarrow from about 2km away.

"They also give food," he said.

Although the crime rate in Corporasie Village is not nearly as high as it is in squatter settlements in urban areas, the community takes no chances with their white family. Two local teenagers, Manu Badahachee and Charmaine Claasen, sleep in the tiny yellow home to make sure the family are safe.

Mrs Pieterse, who grew up in the Free State mining town of St Helena, said her children do not go to school because she has no transport and there is no school or nursery school in the camp.

The family have joined the local Old Apostle Church and visit a friendly neighbour to watch a battery-powered television.

Mrs Pieterse said her children spend all day playing with other children in the camp. A neighbour has given Hannes a black puppy, which the child hugs constantly.

Since arriving at the settlement, Mrs Pieterse has managed to find only two days of work, as an egg-sorter in Port Elizabeth, and has had to rely on her neighbours to survive.

"We usually get about R30 a week from the people and some food," she said. "We eat a bit of chicken about three times a week but we mostly eat bread and vegetables.

"We all sleep on the one bed but I have a tub and I bath the children every day."

She sometimes walks to a nearby dam with the other women to wash the family's clothes, but usually uses her precious tub.

The house, made of plywood and tin, has a bedroom and a kitchen. A small radio has pride of place in the bedroom. In the kitchen are four cups and five plates Mrs Pieterse brought with her to the camp.

The owner of the hut is planning to come back and the community is looking for another house for their white family.

Mr Gqamane, who is Thornhill's ANC general secretary, said the camp's biggest problem was no running water. But he said the community did not want to move to a place with more water because they liked Corporasie Village and they could sell their vegetables on the side of a nearby national road.

The camp is on a private farm and the local authorities are keen for the squatter families to move to another site which has water laid on.

> "I never thought I would live in a place like this. I was born in a conservative town"

2/07/95

(307)

Valkenberg squatters refuse order to move

By AYESHA ISMAIL

MORE than 100 homeless people occupying a disused building at Valkenberg Hospital have vowed not to vacate the premises until regional Health and Social Services Minister Ebrahim Rasool visits them.

They were responding to a written order from Mr Rasool last week for the 139 tenants to get out by July 1. Mr Rasool said their occupation was illegal and disruptive.

Vaughn Jacobs, co-ordinator of the project — which is in the process of being registered as Learn to Earn to Own — denied this week that their presence was "disruptive".

"There are people in this institution just waiting to die. They have no visitors and the sounds and singing of children brings some light and happiness into their hearts.

"The mindset of begging must change and that is exactly what we are doing. We have put 14 street children back in school.

"If we move to the Ark or the Haven, it will disrupt their education and break up the family unit we have built here. While the men are out gathering materials to recycle, the women see to the daily household chores. We are one big family here, we do not want to be separated," he said.

Mr Jacobs said they had made goods which they sold during the Rugby World Cup championships. "We have also successfully trained 68 women for the ANC Women's League in a crash catering course for the RDP Tourist Forum in Guguletu."

While there is only one tap and one toilet for the 136 occupants, the building was remarkably clean when visited by Cape Metro on Friday.

Next to the building is a vegetable and flower garden started by the residents.

The women are taught to sew and their unfinished garments are proudly on display in the "skills training room ". Mr Jacobs said the group would like a one-year lease on the pemises, and were prepared to pay rent.

ST (CM) 2/7/95 (307)

Gloves come off in bitter battle for Melrose Place

BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

Threatened court action by a community organisation purporting to represent the interests of a Grabouw squatter group which has been evicted three times will further delay the allocation of much-needed Melrose Place erven to the Overberg town's poorest of the poor.

(307)

GRABOUW is more fortunate than many South African country towns in that it has land available and plans in place to start meeting the needs of its multitude of homeless people.

Yet the battle for "Melrose Place" has already developed into what must be the most protracted and bitter land dispute of the new South Africa.

About 920 families — of about 3 000 without houses — will eventually be accommodated at Melrose Place.

The 920 lucky families will be picked by an independent consultant who will report to the town's housing forum — which will report to the transitional local council.

But, going on the premise that the early bird gets the worm, 236 families occupied the land illegally in February. They believethey have a right to Melrose Place.

They are being supported in their struggle for the land by the Grabouw Community Organisation headed by the town's Pan Africanist Congress leader, Dennis Marinus.

After two months of failed persuasion, the Western Cape Provincial Administration got a court order for the squatters' eviction in April. Thirty-one people were hurt when the bulldozers moved in, watched by hundreds of police and soldiers, and residents responded by throwing stones.

The 236 families were offered an alternative piece of land, about 100 m up the hill from Melrose Place. They rejected it, but were moved there anyway.

They called it the Snake Park and said it was riddled with snakes, scorpions and disease. They vowed they would not stay — and didn't.

Last week, the independent consultant was applying the finishing touches to a list of 400 families who qualified for land in terms of a strict set of criteria.

But, as the council readied itself to start allocating erven to these "rightful" owners, about 50 families moved back down the hill.

On Thursday their shacks were destroyed again.

Fifteen were rebuilt during the night and destroyed for a third time on Friday when police fired volley after volley of teargas in response to the stones thrown by squatters.

The evicted squatters threatened they would keep on rebuilding ... "forever".

But they did not rebuild over the weekend.

Yesterday Mr Marinus said Graco had changed tack. Scrutiny of the list of 400 showed it had been "smartly compiled" and was "full of corruption".

Unless the independent consultant changed the list, it would be challenged in court.

But town clerk Valdor Dudley said: "Each time they move back on to the land and have to be evicted it costs us money.

"Just keeping the land clear has already cost more than R500 000.

"Now they want to go back to court ... each time he holds back the process it is detrimental to his own community."

● Party politics is a major aggravating factor in the saga.

Mr Marinus, who was Grabouw Democratic Party chairman until January, is now the PAC chairman. Although, as DP chairman he was an elected member of the transitional local council, he walked out in October because the PAC was not represented.

Meanwhile, the TLC is headed by Mayor Stanley Shuma of the South African Communist Party and includes Grabouw's African National Congress leader John Michaels. The TLC wants the squatters evicted.

And the squatters? Most of them voted National Party last April, Mr Marinus conceded.

ARG4/7/95

Reprieve for mental hospital squatters

CT 7/7/95 (307)

STAFF REPORTER

ABOUT 80 illegal squatters who have been occupying a disused ward at Valkenberg Hospital for over six months have been granted a reprieve of their eviction until the end of September.

Ms Amy Thornton, a consultant to provincial Minister of Health Mr Ebrahim Rasool, confirmed this yesterday.

Ms Thornton said a group of the people living in Ward 13 of the mental institution had gone to the minister to find out what was happening. They had accepted explanations of why they could not stay there, but were concerned about being put on to the street again.

"We said we can offer them places at the Ark in Lakeside. For many of them this is not an attractive option, because they do earn some money by being close to town. But they are free to look for something else for themselves."

Complaints had been made against the supposed leader of the squatters, Mr Vaughn Jacobs.

Mr Rasool has already obtained a court order for the eviction of all the illegal tenants from July 1, but Ms Thornton said the execution of this order could be delayed.

Destabilising

Meanwhile, Mr Rasool got the unofficial tenants to sign a statement in which they agreed to leave on or before the end of September.

They had wanted alternative housing, but had not demanded it as a condition of their agreement to move out after September.

The hospital wanted to put the now-disused block to another use, and the presence of the group of homeless persons at Valkenberg was a destabilising influence on the hospital, Ms Thornton said.

Tension at boiling point in Ward 31

(307)

☐ *Valkenberg squatter crisis*

ARG 7/7/95

JERMAINE CRAIG
Staff Reporter

THE crisis at Valkenberg Hospital where about 130 squatters have occupied Ward 31 for the past six months has reached boiling point with a split in the group and allegations of abuse and fraud levelled at the leader of one of the camps.

The squatters got an eviction notice from local Health Minister Ebrahim Rasool to vacate the premises by July 1, or face eviction.

This date was extended to September 30 after Mr Rasool met on Wednesday the group of squatters who have made the accusations against Vaughn Jacobs, the leader of the other group.

The first group claims that Mr Jacobs is abusing the influence he has at the camp, but the other group firmly supports their leader.

The renegade group alleges that Mr Jacobs sells the food and clothes he gets from donations to the camp members. If they can't pay they are denied the goods.

It is also alleged that Mr Jacobs threatens members with eviction if they can't keep up their payments to him.

Yesterday, after a press conference called by Mr Jacobs, his rivals burst into Oude Molen, also at Valkenberg Hospital and where Mr Jacobs is staying, and threw furniture out of the building.

A spokesperson for the dissatisfied group, Cecilia Snyders, said: "Mr Jacobs is not treating us well. He is calling us sellouts because we met with Mr Rasool to tell him about the problems we are having. We don't want him here."

A fellow member of the camp, Desmond America, alleged that last month Mr Jacobs threw him, his seven-months pregnant wife Denise, and their two daughters Danile, 5, and Annelise, 2, out of the camp because he could not keep up his payments.

"We were thrown out into the rain by Mr Jacobs's men in the middle of the night. We were only allowed back into the camp when the welfare authorities came to reinstate us," said Mr America.

Mr Jacobs rejects all the allegations made against him by the disgruntled members of the group.

"It is true that we sell goods donated to us by charity organisations to the public. However, these are surplus goods left over after distribution of goods to members of the camp.

"I am in the fashion business. Factories send clothes to the Learn to Earn to Own (Leo) project at the camp, to convert to cash to fund the project," said Mr Jacobs.

Mr Jacobs also has many supporters in the camp. A Durban man, who moved to the camp recently but refused to be identified, supported Mr Jacobs saying the leader was "struggling for homeless street people".

A spokesperson for Mr Rasool said there was a terrible problem of homelessness which was going to take a lot of time to sort out.

She explained that it was not the duty of the Minister of Health to see to the problem of housing the squatters.

The extension to September 30 applies to all the residents of the Valkenberg squatter camp, excluding Mr Jacobs and two others living with him at Oude Molen because of the allegations against him.



SQUATTER LEADER: Vaughn Jacobs, leader of one of the squatter groups at Valkenberg Hospital, addresses members of the Press yesterday. Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.



Minister 'will evict squatters'

Edward West (307)

CAPE TOWN — Western Cape welfare and health MEC Ebrahim Rasool would evict some 133 homeless people and street children living illegally in Valkenberg Hospital's disused Ward 31 by the end of September if neccesary, a spokesman for the minister said yesterday.

But Learn to Earn to Own project co-ordinator Vaughan Jacobs said the project would resort to legal action to prevent eviction unless the minister agreed to meet them before August 10. PD 7/7/95

Rasool's spokesman Any Thornton said the minister could not condone the illegal invasion of the property for the past six months and the hospital had plans for the ward which related to the patients' wellbeing.

Rasool had offered to place the people in a home for the destitute and a children's home, but sources at Ward 31 said yesterday they feared that this would split up the family units living there.

Thorton said the minister was prepared to do everything possible to help the people living in Ward 31. His department had interviewed people living at Ward 31 and they had indicated they were unhappy about the way Jacobs was running the operation.

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11/7/95

Squatters forgive man who started fire

We bear no grudge, say residents as they rebuild shacks

SABATA NGCA
Staff Reporter

KIND-hearted Langa squatters, who lost their homes in a fire believed to have started when a flame stove was kicked over, have forgiven the man responsible who was apparently drunk at the time.

Busy rebuilding their shacks following the fire on Saturday which razed 22 shacks, they said "it was a mistake which could have been made by anyone".

More than 100 squatters were left homeless by the fire and have now sought refuge with friends and relatives.

They lost belongings valued at thousands of rands.

"It is a mistake which could have been made by anyone," said 51-year-old Sigodlo Gunyeni who lost all his posessions in the fire.

"We know who he is, he must come back, we bear no grudge against him," he said.

His sentiments were also echoed by other residents who said although they were "devastated" by the fire, they bore no grudge against the man.

He has not been seen since the incident.

The residents are now busy rebuilding their shacks from the ashes, using burnt iron sheets, partly burnt planks and material donated by other residents.

The situation has forced the residents to seek refuge in other shacks and in hostels.

Mashotane Rangayi, 38, his wife and 10-month-old baby share a tiny two-room shack with a brother and his wife.

He concedes that the shack is too small to accommodate five people: "We are happy that we have a place to sleep and there is nothing we can do about its size," he said.

Other people are crammed into the cement-floored "dining rooms" of the migrant labour hostels.

There is no space for them in the sleeping quarters which are already overflowing with people.

The area spokesperson for the South African National Civics Organisation (Sanco), Mxolisi Teyise, said it became difficult to save the shacks from fire because there was so little space between them.

The space in which the razed shacks were built could only accommodate about six shacks with enough space between them to prevent such a catastrophe.

Nowelcome Nogemane had to watch helplessly while her shack burnt down.

She was left with only a blanket and the clothes she was wearing.

Sanco has now given her an open space on which to build another shack.

Sanco is planning to move some people to other areas to allow more space in the hope of preventing a repetition of the fire.



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

DETERMINED RESIDENTS: Langa squatters who lost their shacks in a fire on Saturday are battling to rebuild them.

Another winter, and the poor pray for an end to rain

Staff Reporter

EVERY year they have the same problem, recalls Eunice Mfiki, one of the many shack dwellers on the Cape Flats flooded out by heavy rains.

Ms Mfiki and her family — her mother, two brothers and three sisters — live in a small two-bedroomed, corrugated iron shack in the KTC squatter camp.

Like most of the other residents in the camp, she has spent a miserable weekend fetching and carrying buckets of water and desperately trying to keep her shelter dry.

"Just as we have carted one bucket of water out of the house we come and find that there is more water from the rain ... it never stops and the water has no end," says a despairing Ms Mfiki.

Ms Mfiki sits next to a paraffin stove on which an old iron is being heated.

Every few minutes she takes the iron off the stove and uses it to begin what seems like a futile task of drying a drenched yellow pullover.

"While it rains we have no place to sleep and all the blankets in the house are wet.

"There is nowhere we can dry out the blankets while it rains like this.

"We just wait and pray for the rain to come to an end."

It is estimated that nearly a quarter of a million people live in informal settlements in the Western Cape.

All the residents interviewed at the KTC squatter camp had spent a miserable weekend trying to keep themselves dry and the floodwaters out of their rudimentary shacks.

Other residents told how they would come home from work only to find their shacks under water.

The Argus Warm Hearts Campaign has been established to bring relief to communities worst affected by winter.

● Collection points for clothing have been established at all Protea Hotels and Pick 'n Pay Discount Supermarkets.

The Community Chest is handling distribution.

The latest contributions come from NMS Marcel S Gourmet Frozen Yoghurt, Residents of the Good Hope Park, K M Shackleton of Rondebosch, A G Dose of Pinelands, Anonymous, R E Billett, Wask family of Constantia, and Maureen Portlock.

● Anyone wishing to contribute can contact Kathy Marais of the Community Chest at ☎ 24 3344.



WASHED OUT: Children walk near flooded shacks at the KTC squatter camp.
Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

The Argus WARM HEARTS • UBUBELE WARM HARTE

White woman, children leave squatter camp

☐ *'She did not want to go'*

ARG 12/7/95 (307)

The Argus Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — The destitute white woman and her three children given shelter by a Thornhill squatter community were taken to Bloemfontein last week by the woman's mother.

The community's plight was highlighted in the local media and the London Sunday Times after residents opened their hearts to destitute Helena Pieterse, giving her a house and what little provisions they could afford.

But when Mrs Pieterse's mother discovered where she was living, she travelled from the North West Province to collect her daughter and grandchildren, and apparently took them to Bloemfontein last Wednesday.

"Mrs Pieterse did not want to leave," said a community spokesman.

Mrs Pieterse and her husband moved from the former Bophuthatswana to the Eastern Cape in November last year.

After her husband disappeared, Mrs Pieterse and their children Hannes, 2, Marizaan, 4, and Laurette, 6, were taken in by the Thornhill squatters.

However, the squatter community, who have lived on a private farm without piped water, electricity or steady employment for the past 60 years, have faced the threat of relocation since 1984.

Farmer Willie Pienaar said he had refused an Algoa Regional Services Council instruction to move the squatters from his land, as they were a happy and peaceful community.

RSC engineering director Johan Badenhorst said: "The previous government purchased nearby land with the aim of moving squatters into one area."

He said that 18 months ago the squatters requested they be moved to the new site. The squatters deny this.

Mr Badenhorst said it was decided to service the new site after complaints were received from several Thornhill residents.

However, a squatter community spokesman said they did not want to move, but had requested water and sanitation on their present site.

He said residents had signed forms to move to the new sites, not realising they had the right to remain where they were.

But Mr Badenhorst said it was not in the interests of the RSC to install water and sanitation on private land as the owner could ask the squatters to move and then use the facilities himself.

The RSC had serviced 115 new residential sites, but there were 260 houses on the present site.

Jeffreys Bay African National Congress spokesman Theunis Crouse said the new site "is pure marshland and the plots are a lot smaller", a claim which Mr Badenhorst denied.

Mr Crouse said some residents wanted the squatters moved because their social club looked on to the camp.

ANC MP Mike Xego had taken the matter to local government and housing MEC Max Mamase, and there were plans to buy the land.



SQUATTERS: Helena Pieterse and her three children settled into the squatting lifestyle very quickly, with the help of the residents of the Thornhill squatter community near Jeffreys Bay.

Low life on the outer edge

☐ *'We keep burglars away', say Foreshore squatters*

ARG 27/7/95 (307)

SABATA NGCAI
Staff Reporter

THE beggars who were chased off the city streets about two weeks ago and who have resettled in a Foreshore parking area, are now selling waste paper to make a living.

The people have been begging for money from motorists and pedestrians in Hans Strijdom Avenue for many years, but after persistent objections from the businessmen in the area traffic officers "chased" them away.

Although some of them left the parking area after they were arrested last Friday for tresspassing, the few left behind collect waste paper from dirt bins and sell it to waste paper companies.

Some of the beggars used to make a living by washing people's cars. They said their customers had their favourites who they paid to wash their cars.

The beggars said they could not understand why the police were chasing them away because they also acted as nightwatchmen.

"Whenever there were break-ins in people's motor cars in the evenings, we reported the matter to the police," said Alexander Petersen, one of the beggars.

Now that his "daily bread" was taken away, he would continue to sell waste paper to make ends meet.

The beggars said they had no intention of going back to where they originally came from because they would be returning to "worse hunger and poverty".

"In the city even if you are not working, you sell something and get money to buy food," Mr Petersen said. "You look in the dirt bins and get food to eat."

While other beggars are harassed for squatting in the parking area, there are two squatter families who are lucky to live in harmony in another parking area across the road.

The families, who also make their living by selling waste material, have lived in the area for a year.

The police apparently tried several times to evict them but were turned away by a security guard at the entrance.

Fifty-year-old Henry Balo has been working at the parking area as a caretaker for more than four years.

He sees the squatters as helpful because they act as night watchmen when he is off duty in the evenings.

He said no break-ins had taken place since the beggars settled there.

Mr Balo said even the property owner knew about the squatters: "I repeatedly told the police that I would hold them responsible for any damage to the property should they evict the people," he said.

For the two families, the parking area is like a home. Their children run around the pillars of the bridge over the parking area.

The two families sleep in a temporary shack, the roof of which is balanced on planks and plastic containers. They use small pieces of floor rug to cover the floor and make it warmer.

They can't stand inside the shack because the structure is too small. To move in and out, they have to kneel down. The shack is divided into two small "rooms" for the two families.

They make fire and cook their food in zinc containers. They must wash themselves either very early in the morning so that people cannot see them, or late in the evening.

Despite the problems, the families seem happy with the situation.

There is a radio on top of the shack which plays at top volume, and as they unpack a bundle of waste papers, they sing and dance to the music.

One of the family members, Johannes Jafta, said when they sold the papers they got between R20 and R40 a day, depending on the size of the load.

He said they were happy there and they lived as "one big, happy family".

Taxi rank cost is forced up by squatters

ARG 30/8/95

Municipal Reporter

SQUATTERS who took over land earmarked for a new minibus taxi rank at Site C in Khayelitsha have pushed up the price of the project by about R400 000.

A report to the Cape Metropolitan Council reveals that the estimated cost was R1,8 million but a delay in construction has increased this to an estimated R2,2 million.

The original estimate was made about 16 months ago, but work could not proceed after squatters moved in.

The land is still occupied by squatters but residences alongside the N2 have been earmarked for the occupants.

The report says: "The Lingelethu West Transitional Council intends moving the people to this area shortly before the contract is awarded.

"Apparently it is inadvisable to move the people too soon as the taxi terminus site could be invaded once again before the contractor is able to commence his operation."

Prepaid water meters proposed

Staff Reporter

PREPAID water meters should be combined with those already used for electricity to allow developing communities to control their water consumption, it has been proposed.

Researchers from the Water Research Commission said it was necessary for the private sector to develop a single unit for electricity and water prepayment. ARG 30/8/95

This would ensure people in developing communities paid for water through an acceptable system because they were "highly suspicious of account systems, especially when the meter is not read regularly" and debt for water payments continued to rise.

Rail line planned

Municipal Reporter

A RAILWAY line for commuters living north of Milnerton is being planned.

This was confirmed by Metro manager Andre Harrison, who said R25 000 had been set aside for the conceptual planning of the line, which would run along the current Atlantis goods line.

But the new line was unlikely to operate for another five years.

Unisa insight on squatter life

(307) Star 5/9/95

Less than one in five squatters in Gauteng earns a salary in the formal sector.

This figure increases slightly to 26% for house occupants in black townships around Johannesburg and Pretoria, researchers said yesterday.

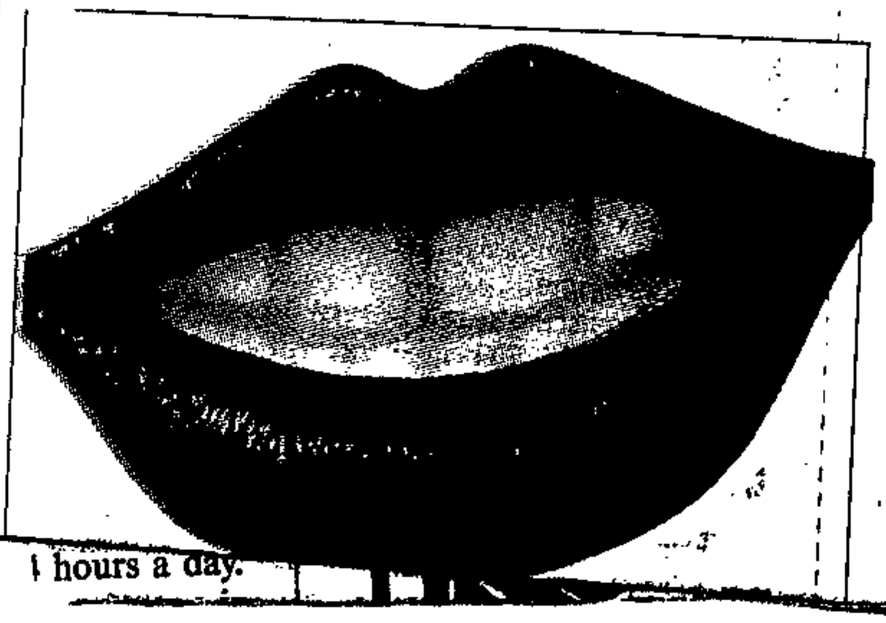
But 52% of shack-dwellers and 75% of home occupants had TV sets, often battery-operated, the University of South Africa's Bureau of Market Research said in a report.

"The socio-economic profile of shack-dwellers emerging from the study depicts that shack-dwellers were more dependent on the informal sector for a living.

"They also had far less education, and only 18% earned a salary compared to 26% for houses." The bureau said its study showed shack-dwellers were relatively better off in Gauteng than in other provinces. – Reuter.

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Squatters in court after mixed message from Mandela

WM 8-14/9/95

307

Steuart Wright

ALMOST 160 illegal squatters who received confused messages from politicians including President Nelson Mandela about their future were charged with contempt of court this week.

The squatters, from Mandela and Slovo Parks outside Umtata, are accused of defying a court order compelling them to leave their piece of prime land.

In June they began erecting shacks on land near the former South African embassy to Transkei while claiming that they had permission to occupy the land from the late housing minister, Joe Slovo.

Mandela gave his stamp of approval to Slovo's promise when he visited the squatters last month and even released a statement saying that after discussions with the Eastern Cape government it was decided to drop court action against the squatters.

Umtata residents have complained that they paid exorbitant prices for inferior land while squatters paid R10 for prime property and illegally erected shacks.

However, only days after the Mandela visit, both central and provincial government backtracked on the presidential guarantee and the squatters were served with an interdict ordering them off the land.

Premier Raymond Mhlaba said Mandela had been misinformed about the circumstances surrounding the illegal occupation. Mandela then called for an end to the illegal occupation.

Transkei police spokesman Captain Monde Nqadini said police trucks swooped on the settlement this week and arrested 158 residents after "we thought they would leave that place on their own but they didn't".

A spokesman for the South African National Civics Organisation, which has taken up the cause of the squatters, could not be reached for comment. — Ecna

o oppose the application can he return date of October 16.

Judge Williamson is survived by his wife, Sannie, and 11 children.

Squatters threaten high-tech project

(307) ARG 22/9/95

Municipal Reporter

VRYGROND squatters living on the periphery of the proposed high-tech Capricorn Park are threatening to upset the development.

This warning came from Cape Town City Council housing committee co-chair Bathembu Lugulwana.

Mr Lugulwana was commenting on proposals put forward by development co-ordinator Rod Young, who is engaged in final negotiations on the project, which is set to create about 34 000 jobs, and is billed as one of the biggest developments yet in the city.

The R3 billion project also enjoys the personal blessing of President Nelson Mandela because of its development potential.

Mr Young said the Capricorn project could offer employment opportunities for the Vrygrond community. However, he said there was a need for the city council to deal directly with residents of Vrygrond to avoid any potential problems.

Early on, the council had decided to excise 652 ha, including Vrygrond and some adjoining land, from the proposed land up for sale because it became clear the community was unlikely to move.

Mr Lugulwana said conditions at Vrygrond were "completely unacceptable", and proposed that negotiations with the community begin without delay.

Relocation of Red Hill squatters to be debated

(307) ARG 11/2/95

Staff Reporter

A PROPOSAL to move the squatter settlement on Red Hill to Dido Valley is one of the issues on the agenda for a public meeting in the Simon's Town town hall on December 5 at 7.30pm.

Other items on the agenda include future developments for the area in terms of the draft structure plan for the town.

Town secretary Tobie Hills says the Simon's Town TMS is concerned about the Red Hill squatters' plight and because of this they are in the process of putting in temporary toilets and water at the site while negotiations are taking place about their eventual transfer to Dido Valley.

"It could take up to two years before actual relocation takes place," Mr Hills said. "Land earmarked for them still has to be transferred to the TMS and there is a lot of planning and consultation to be done, including getting money from the Reconstruction and Development Programme for this project."

He said environmental degradation in the Red Hill area was severe with polluted water and the risk of fire and that something had to be done about the situation.

He said moving squatters to Dido Valley would be a good thing because then housing and a clinic could be provided in an area close to transport and employment opportunities. A sports field would also be on the list of needs for the squatters.

"Consultation is taking place with other affected parties including people adjacent to Dido Valley, the Navy, Western Cape provincial authorities and the Surplus People Project.

Mr Hills said the squatters had been fully consulted about the proposed move and that 95 percent of them said they wanted to move. "As long as the Red Hill residents commit themselves to payment for services we can move forward with plans and with job-training skills. We hope this project will be a model one and an example to others."

The council also committed itself to extend the provision of low-cost housing to a wider area than that identified for the relocation of the Red Hill community and from initial responses it appears that this might meet with some opposition from residents who are concerned about the possible effect on the value of their properties and fear the social ills identified with low cost housing areas.

Violence threat to squatters

CHRIS BATEMAN
ET 1/12/95 (307)

THREATS of gang violence against the Valkenberg squatters due to be evicted today pose a major problem for Health Department officials about to move them into alternative accommodation in Elsie's River.

At 2pm today police will enforce the order served on 107 people who have lived in a disused wing of the hospital for the last year — and the Health Department will return to court if a faction of the group "continue to frustrate" plans to provide alternative shelter.

Appeal

Western Cape Health and Welfare Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool claimed that Mr Joseph Little, leader of the more militant of the two factions, was fomenting trouble in Elsie's River, where his staff had prepared the abandoned Elsie's River School for Girls for occupation.

He said there were solid mental health care proposals for the use of the occupied Valkenberg buildings and said "we've become the victims of our own kindness".

He appealed to the Elsie's River community to accept the squatters for six months — after which the school could be turned into a community asset.



Pictures: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

☐ **DEFIANT:** Valkenberg squatter leader Joseph Little says he cannot take his followers to the "hell-hole" in Elsies River, a reference to the alternative school site the Department of Health and Social Services is offering.

Squatters break their agreement

(307) ARG 2/12/95 HB

■ Valkenberg squatters spell out why they reneged on an undertaking to move out of the premises they have been occupying for over a year.

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

MORE than a hundred squatters, who have illegally occupied the vacant ward 31 and Oude Molen buildings at Valkenberg Hospital for the past year, have reneged on an undertaking to vacate the buildings.

After months of negotiation between the squatters and the provincial Department of Health and Social Services, an agreement was reached that they would vacate the premises by 2 pm yesterday.

The department secured a Supreme Court order enabling them to evict the squatters if they refused to move to their new temporary accommodation at the former Elsies River School for Girls and a vacant site in Philippi.



☐ **HAPPY FAMILY:** These Valkenberg squatters do not want to move to Elsies River.

Health Minister Ebrahim Rasool offered to provide transport and tents for the group moving to Philippi. The department also agreed to install basic facilities such as toilets and electricity at the school, which has been badly vandalised.

Department spokeswoman Amy Thornton said all the arrangements were going "according to plan" and no drastic measures, such as police intervention, had been necessary.

"The one group living in the Oude Molen buildings assured us, through their attorneys, they would be out of the premises by the deadline and have packed their possessions.

"The other group, led by Joseph Little, was a bit reluctant to leave, saying the alternative accommodation was not up to scratch.

"But, we assured them we would provide basic facilities and it would be up to them to make the place liveable."

By late yesterday afternoon, trucks still were parked near the buildings, but none of the squatters showed any sign of leaving.

Mr Little said he was not prepared to lead his followers to the "hell-hole" in Elsies River and said the provincial government should stop using them as a political football.

"If they can allow squatting at a disused school why can't they allow us to continue our stay at this derelict section of the hospital which has been empty for the past nine years?

"They keep speaking about the reconstruction and development programme, but we, the people who really need the programme, get thrown out instead of being offered the chance to build our own home and community."

Squatters move to river bank

(307) ARG 5/12/95

'We want the public to see our suffering'

Staff Reporter

CAPE Town's Valkenberg squatters have occupied the banks of the Liesbeek River after being evicted from the nearby Valkenberg Mental Hospital.

The squatters, who have been living in a disused wing of the hospital for the past year, refused to move to Elsies River, where the provincial Department of Health and Social Services arranged temporary accommodation at the former Elsies River School for Girls.

The school, which has been badly vandalised, has no basic facilities such as toilets and electricity.

The department promised the squatters it would repair the building and install basic facilities. But by yesterday, the school building still had no electricity and toilets. The department had only installed new windows and doors.

The squatters said the health department had not fulfilled its promise, so they would refuse to move to Elsies River.

Several squatters said they had also refused to move to Elsies River because the local community did not want them there.

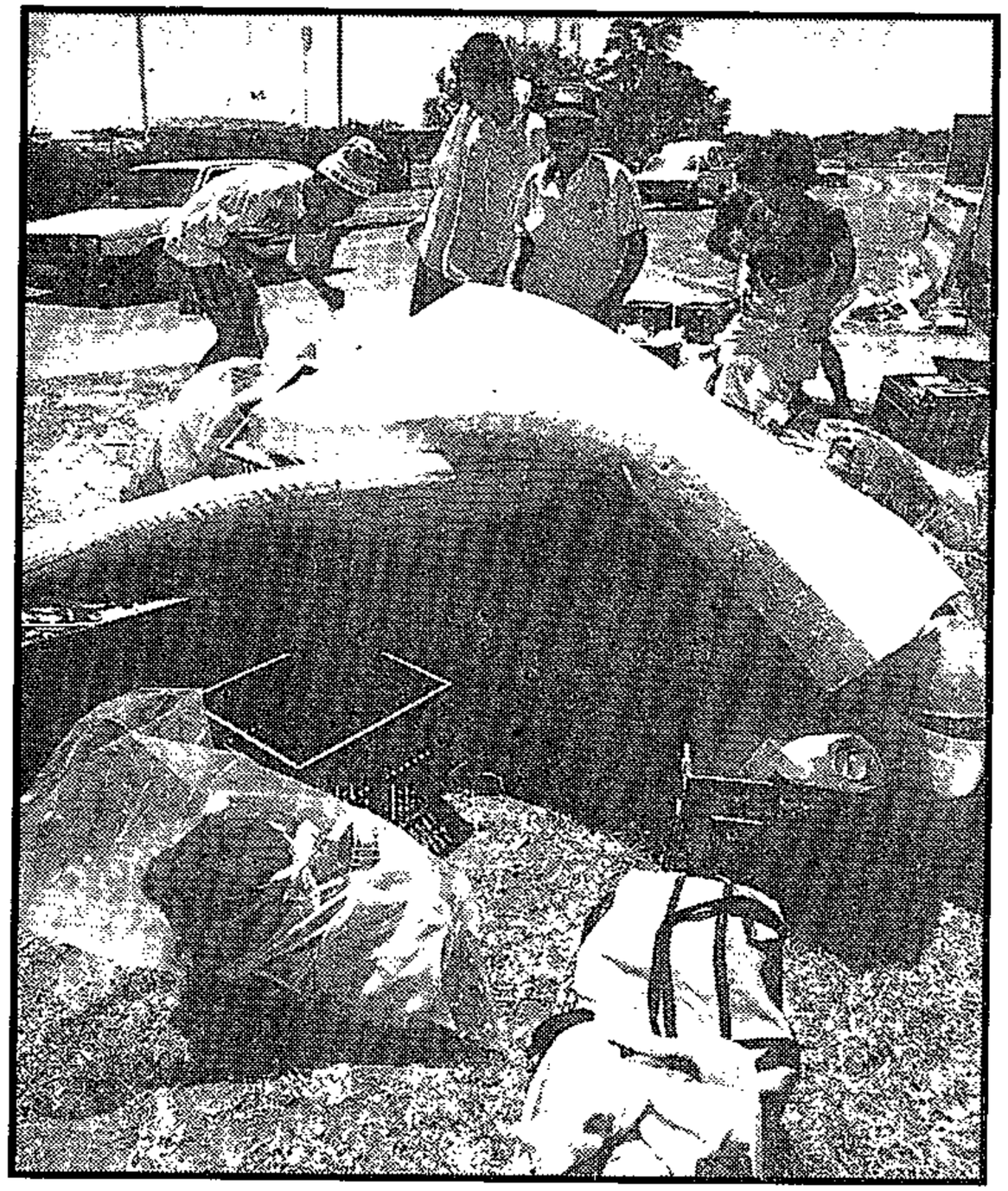
Squatter Desmond America said: "We do not want to move to Elsies River because it is very dangerous there and the community don't want us there because they said there are many people in Elsies River who don't have homes.

"I have three children. My youngest child is three months old. But I would rather sleep by the river than go to Elsies River."

The squatters said they moved to the Liesbeek River bank because they wanted the public to see their suffering.

Ludwig Rossouw of the Sheriff's Office said his job was to remove the squatters from Valkenberg and take them wherever they wanted to go.

Health department spokeswoman Amy Thornton said the



LIESBEEK SQUATTERS: Valkenberg Hospital squatters vow not to move to Elsies River.



Pictures: LEON MULLER, The Argus.

ON THE MOVE: Squatters take up residence on the banks of the Liesbeek River after being evicted from Valkenberg Hospital.

department had made the squatters many offers but their leader Joseph Little had refused them.

Ms Thornton said the squatters were no longer the department's problem because they were out of the hospital.

She said the squatters were the responsibilty of the housing ministry. The health department felt sorry for them but there was no way they could have lived at the mental hospital.

Squatter leader Mr Little said the health department had tried to put the blame on him by saying he refused their offers. But he blamed the department for breaking its promises.

"All I'm asking them is to honour their agreement."

He said there was still no electricity or toilets at the Elsies River site.

"How can they expect people to live in a place where there are no basic facilities?" he said.

Mr Little said the Elsies River community did not want the squatters there because they felt they could also use the old school building.

If the squatters moved to Elsies River, the police would have to protect them from the local community

Mr Little said the squatters intended staying next to the Liesbeek River until suitable accommodation was found.

He said he had spoken to the housing ministry, Safmarine and many other organisations to find accommodation for the squatters, but nobody seemed to care.

NAME:

EVICTED GROUP WAITS FOR NEW OFFER

Squatters camp near river

CT 6/12/95 (307)

MOST OF the squatters evicted from Valkenberg Hospital have shunned the abandoned school offered to them. They want a place closer to their jobs. **PETER DENNEHY** reports.

BETWEEN 60 and 70 squatters evicted from a disused wing of Valkenberg Hospital have set up camp beside the Liesbeek River while they wait to be offered accommodation that is acceptable to them.

The squatters have created shelters by suspending plastic sheeting from trees on council-owned parkland on the river bank opposite the Hartleyvale Stadium.

The settlement has prompted an outcry from Observatory residents.

The Cape Town City Council's Rapid Reaction Force and the Squatter Control Unit were called, but the council decided to seek a negotiated settlement.

Officials from the council's legal office and the project management services branch that deals with housing were trying to set up a meeting with provincial officials yesterday.

They hope accommodation can be found that will be acceptable to the squatters.

A few of the evicted squatters have gone to stay in an abandoned industrial school in Elsie's River. They were offered the use of the school for six months after being served with the notice evicting them from Valkenberg Hospital.

Those who have chosen to camp on the Liesbeek River have complained that the school does not have working toilets or electricity.

They have said that several of their number have jobs in nearby suburbs and are reluctant to live far from these.

They also don't wish to move away from the schools that their children have been attending.

The squatters have also argued that as they would have only temporary use of the school they would be on the streets again in six months.

Several months ago, the squatters turned down an offer of accommodation at The Ark mission in Lakeside.

They said Lakeside was too far from their places of employment.



MAKESHIFT HOME: Ms Cinthia Adams prepares a meal under the trees on council-owned land beside the Liesbeek River. She is among the squatters who have refused to move into an abandoned school at Elsie's River. City Council officials are trying to arrange other accommodation for the group. *PICTURE: CLIVE SMITH*

Squatters delay R3-bn park

(307) ARG 6/12/95

Municipal Staff

WORK on the R3 billion Capricorn Science and Manufacturing Park development in Muizenberg is being held up by the Vrygrond squatter community who are demanding the Cape Town City Council give them a 52 hectare piece of land.

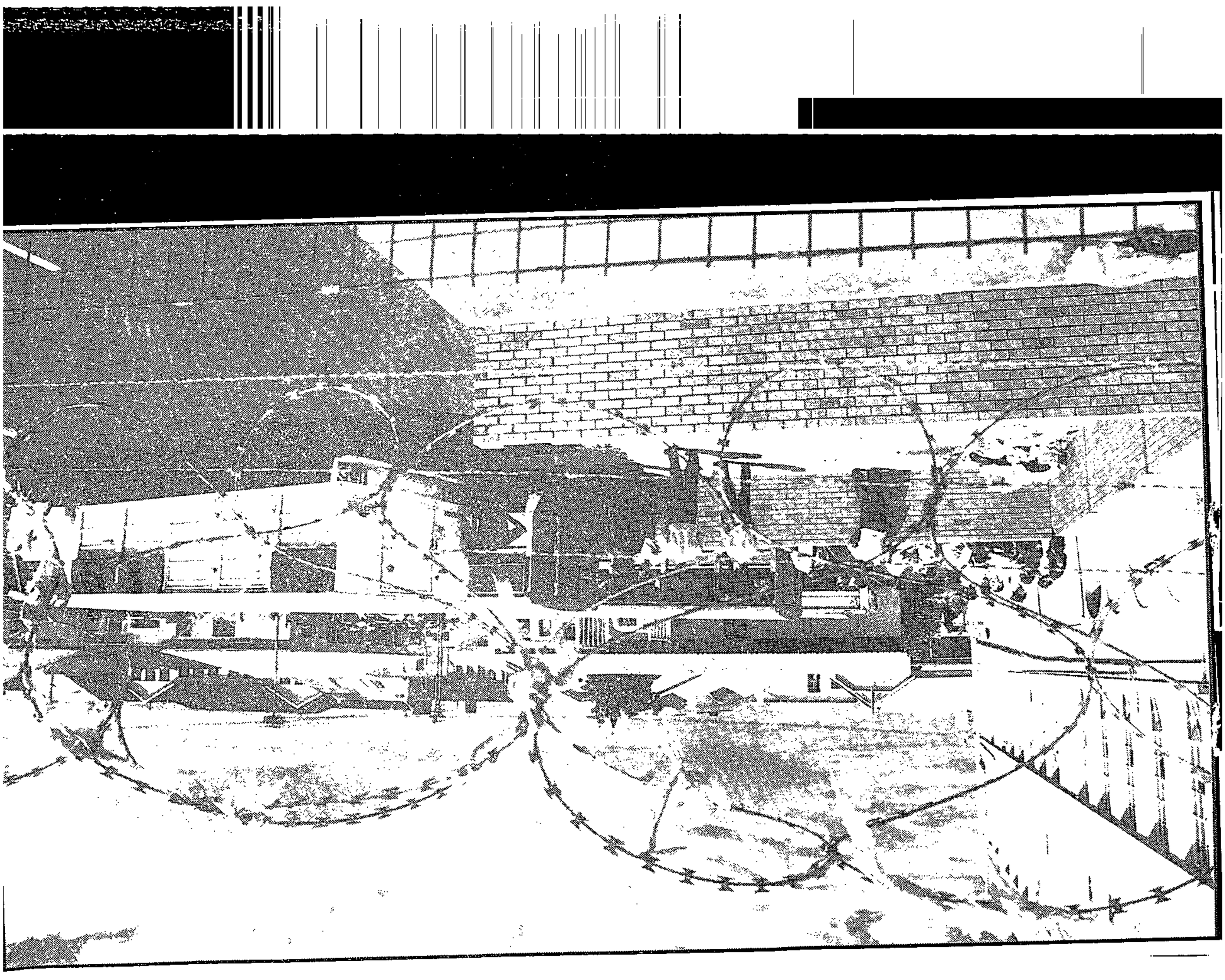
After advertising their intention to sign the contract with the developers, the council got two letters of objection to the development, one from the Vrygrond RDP Forum and another on their behalf from the New World Foundation.

Reporting to the council's economic development committee, development officer Rod Young told the members that before the contract could be signed, the council would have to deal with the objections.

"We will have to follow the legal process in addressing their objections but I am quite certain that we have found a way to get them to withdraw their objections."

Mr Young said the community, although in favour of the Capricorn development, wanted a firm undertaking from the council that a 52 ha piece of land on the eastern boundary of the park would be set aside for their housing needs.

"What they are asking for is something that we have committed ourselves to in the past."



Valkenberg squatters evicted

(307)

ARG 12/12/95

Staff Reporter

ARMED police and security guards were called in today to remove the "Valkenberg squatters" from a school in Woodstock.

The squatters, including women and children, were arrested and taken to Woodstock police station where they are being charged with trespassing.

Last week, the squatters were evicted from Valkenberg hospital in Observatory where they had lived for the past year.

They were supposed to go to a vacant school in Elsies River but refused and occupied the banks of the nearby Liesbeeck River instead.

The squatters then moved to Greatmore Primary School in Woodstock, where police today arrested them.

Residents were shocked at the heavy police presence for the eviction of the squatters.

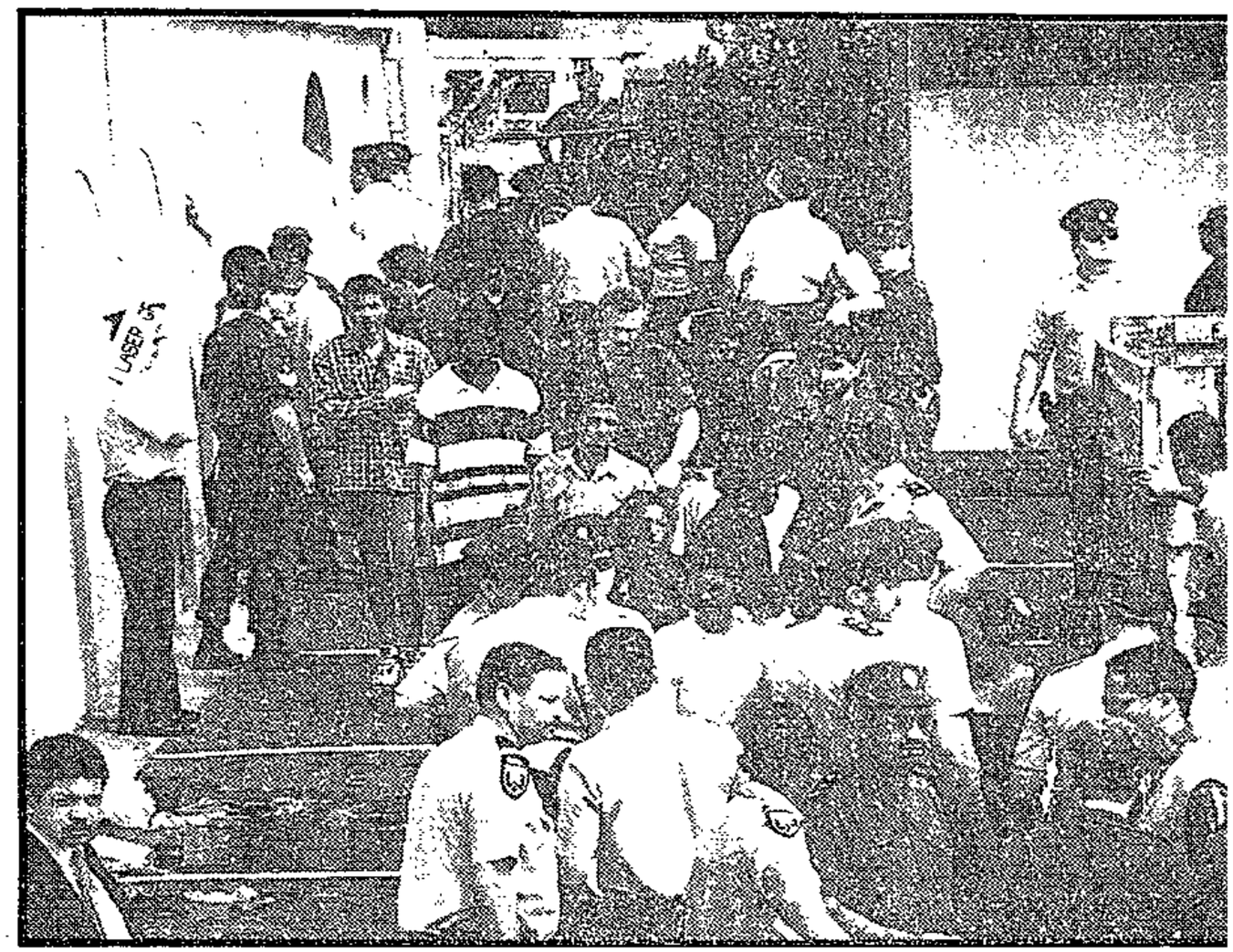
Said one: "It is shocking to see so many police for a few homeless people".

Another said: "It's disgusting to see the police respond to such petty matters. The squatters have been locked inside the school since Thursday. They are not a nuisance. Why don't police arrest the drug dealers in the area?"

A statement issued jointly by Minister of Housing Gerald Morkel, Local Government Minister Peter Marais and Minister of Health and Social Welfare Ebrahim Rasool said the situation would not be tolerated.

The statement said the ministries had entered negotiations, and emerged with agreements to resolve the problem. But the squatters rejected every suggestion put to them.

POLICE PRESENCE: A large police contingent takes up positions at Greatmore primary school, above, while below, the Valkenberg squatters who occupied Greatmore Primary School in Woodstock are led to police vans. They were taken to Woodstock police station and charged with trespassing.



mayor's discretionary fund and tacted for comment last night.

Squatters evicted from school

307 CT 13/12/95

THE "Valkenberg squatters", recently evicted from Valkenberg Hospital building, were without shelter again last night after being forcibly removed from a disused Woodstock school.

Forty-three of the squatters appeared briefly in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court in connection with trespass charges yesterday afternoon after police and security guards had removed them from the Greatmore Primary School.

The squatters gathered last night at Community House in Salt River, where accommodation arrangements were being made.

City councillor Mr Sedick Soeker, who was helping the squatters last night, confirmed their claim that they had been moved to the school in terms of an agreement reached between Local Housing Minister Mr Gerald Morkel and the council.

The Education Department had evicted the squatters, he said.
—Staff Reporter

Rugby probe: Names given

MOVE WITH

(307)

Squatters spend night in council office block

ARG 15/12/95

JERMAINE CRAIG
Staff Reporter

THE "Valkenberg squatters" have found an unlikely new home — the Civic Centre offices of the Cape Town City Council, albeit for only one night.

The squatters spent the night in the bastion of bureaucracy after handing over a memorandum to the mayor of Cape Town, William Bantom, yesterday.

For the last few days the squatter families have been staying on the streets of Woodstock, after being kicked out of a school in Greatmore Street they had been occupying.

After they had been evicted from Valkenberg psychiatric hospital earlier, the squatters lived on the banks of the Liesbeek River.

They were then moved to the school in Woodstock, before being told to move again to a site in Elsies River.

When they refused, saying that people in Elsies River did not want them there, they were arrested for trespassing.

Their case was postponed and they are due to appear in court again on December 19.

In the memorandum handed to Mr Bantom yesterday, the squatter families proposed two sites which they would feel comfortable with.

The first was the land situated between the Vincent Pallotti Hospital and the Black River Parkway.

The second was the land in Viking Way between Bofors Circle and the traffic on-ramp on the road leading to Jan Smuts Drive.

Squatters' quest for land turns sour

ARG 19/12/95 (307)

Staff Reporter

THE homeless "Valkenberg squatters" still have no place to go — they were nearly arrested for trespassing for a second time in a week as their quest for a piece of land turned sour.

They were hustled from the Cape Town Civic Centre amid a strong police presence yesterday after facing possible arrest for trespassing by squatting at the civic centre.

A number of the 75 people who occupied the civic centre yesterday face trespassing charges in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court today after they allegedly occupied a Woodstock school illegally before being evicted a week ago.

The squatters were evicted from Valkenberg mental hospital in Observatory earlier this month, after occupying a disused wing for about a year.

From the hospital, they moved to the banks of the Liesbeeck River after turning down a provincial Department of Health and Social Services offer to move temporarily to accommodation at an Elsies River school.

The settlement prompted an outcry from Observatory residents. The squatters moved to Greatmore Primary School in Woodstock where they were arrested by police a week ago.



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

HOMELESS: Sedick Soeker, a Cape Town city councillor, discusses the plight of squatters who occupied the Civic Centre yesterday after they were evicted earlier from Valkenberg mental hospital in Observatory where they had lived in a disused wing for about a year.

The squatters claim they were under the impression they had permission from the council to occupy the school.

They have been trying to negotiate with the city council since.

On their arrival at the Civic Centre yesterday, they were handed notices telling them their demand for places to live could not be met.

They were told it would be impossible to reach a settlement and there was no purpose in continuing talks.

They were warned they would be arrested unless they left. The council suggested they take up the matter with provincial authorities.

Last night, city councillor Sedick Soeker attempted to negotiate with police to allow the squatters to stay at the Civic Centre overnight.

Eventually, however, Mr Soeker realised he was fighting a losing battle and the homeless agreed to move back to Community House, Salt River.

Mr Soeker said: "The bottom line is we are talking about the lives of 30 children. When you look at them you can see the fear in their eyes.

"I agree they should not necessarily be the council's responsibility, but this whole issue entered the council's arena when they were taken from the (council-owned) banks of the river and dumped at that school, before being arrested two days later."

Mr Soeker said he made it clear last night that if the squatters were to be arrested, he would go with them to jail.

"I appeal to the city: Where has that humanitarian part of us gone? Why must we be so selfish?

"I will try to speak to one of the co-leaders of the council's executive committee to try and find a way out for these people.

"They need a piece of land and I believe we should start to change the face of the city and become sympathetic to the homeless."

67 squatters to appear in court again

(307)

Staff Reporter

THE 67 squatters who were evicted from Greatmore Primary School in Woodstock will again appear in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court on January 23. ARG 20/12/95

The "Valkenberg" squatters were arrested on trespassing charges last week.

They were not asked to plead and have not been charged formally.

Magistrate G Olwage postponed the case to allow the squatters to obtain legal representation.

Two weeks ago the squatters were evicted from Valkenberg mental hospital in Observatory where they had lived for the past year.

They were supposed to go to a vacant school in Elsies River from there but instead occupied the banks of the nearby Liesbeeck River.

They then moved to the Greatmore Primary School.

Vagrant 'evicted by electric

(307) ARG 27/12/95

prod

Child unit staff outraged at council's use of device

Staff Reporter

STAFF of a child protection group have expressed their outrage after Cape Town City Council workers used an electric prodding device to remove a vagrant from Rondebosch Common.

City council spokesman Ted Doman confirmed council workers used the device, apparently sold in self-protection stores, to remove a man who had been clinging to a van when his goods were removed.

Shifra Jacobson, director of Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Rapcan), which has offices nearby, said staff members found the man shaking uncontrollably in the middle of Sawkins Road.

They led him off the busy road and established what had happened.

Ms Jacobson said: "To me, a shocking device is an instrument of torture. With our aim of a new, more humane society, one would hope there would be a ban on such instruments and we would find more reconciliatory ways of dealing with problems that face us.

"Homeless people are victims of a system. We should be finding solutions rather than blaming the victim."

The group had been sleeping on the common for several months, according to Rapcan employees.

Mr Doman said the workers, who are members of the council's squatter control unit, used the device because they did not use guns or other weapons.

He said the workers were removing possesions of those sleeping on Rondebosch Common.

When the control unit tried to leave the scene, one of the group would not let go of the vehicle. A member of the control unit then reportedly used the electric prod on the man.

The device was used to persuade him to let go.

Mr Doman said residents in the area had complained about the vagrants.

When the squatter control unit visited the area they found the vagrants had building material with them.

Mr Doman said they were asked to leave, but refused.

The next day, the unit returned to remove possessions to pressurise them into leaving.

Mr Doman said squatter control staff were "only doing their job".



☐ **DISPUTED TERRITORY:** Milanese icecream-maker Elisabetta Walzl claims Rastafarian traders outside h her to continue her business and she's thinking of packing up and going home.

Deadline for West Coast squatters

ST(M) 15/10/95 (307)

NAMAQUALAND'S seaside squatters will be spending their last Christmas at Groenrivier-mond before they must demolish their illegal holiday shacks to make way for a national park.

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

In terms of an agreement thrashed out at the arid settlement last weekend, the squatters have six months to remove all illegal buildings on a 100 ha patch of state land at the river mouth.

However, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom has set a February 15 deadline to review the demolitions and assess progress towards drafting a development plan for the park.

Confirming Mr Hanekom's latest reprieve for the invaders, ministerial spokesman Helmuth Schlenter said it followed a meeting three months ago at which "squatter" representatives agreed to break down all structures built since last year's elections.

National Parks Board research and development director Anthony Hall-Martin said Mr Hanekom had also made it clear that state land in the area should be incorporated in the proposed park. A Department of Environment Affairs researcher said it was essential that local communities be involved.

Another source said illegal use of state land was setting a precedent and inviting land invasions.

Mr Hanekom originally stepped in after whites staked out plots and built at least 100 holiday shacks on a patch of state-owned land at the mouth of the Groenrivier.

The core conservation zone involves a narrow, 50 km strip of land, owned by De Beers, between Island Point and the Spoeg River mouth to the north.

The NPB also hoped to incorporate the De Beer-owned farms into the park on a contractual basis, said Dr Hall-Martin.

Kriel tries to evict Valkenberg squatters

(307)

HENRIËTTE GELDENHUYS
Supreme Court Reporter

ARG 21/10/93

WESTERN CAPE premier Hernus Kriel has applied for an interdict in the Cape Town Supreme Court to evict 75 squatters from Ward 31 at Valkenberg Hospital.

The squatters have been occupying the ward since December and their representative, Joseph Little, admitted yesterday that the occupation was illegal.

Mr Little, who appeared for an organisation called Leo (Learn to Earn to Own), which aims to establish a skills centre for the Afrikaans-speaking squatters, has until November 27 to respond to the application.

Mr Justice Siraj Desai said the squatters were only told two days ago of the intention to apply for an eviction order and they could not be placed "in such disarray at such short notice".

He asked Ashton Skippers, counsel for Mr Kriel, why he mentioned in his application that the squatters lived in appalling conditions.

Mr Justice Desai: "People live in appalling conditions not out of choice, but out of desperation."

Mr Skippers: "It constitutes a health hazard."

Mr Justice Desai: "Every shanty in this country ... and in Africa ... constitutes a health hazard."

However, the judge told Mr Little that he could not allow squatters to further disrupt the hospital, which had to take care of mentally unstable people.

Mr Little gave an undertaking not to allow more squatters to occupy the premises.

The Department of Computer Science strives to be a department of the first rank in both an international and an African context, sustaining

- high respect for its research and post-graduate education;
- excellence in teaching in order to produce graduates who possess the skills that are needed whenever decision making or creative thinking takes place;
- an influential role in industry and the Information Technology community.

The 'Bridge Hotel'

(307) ARG 21/11

Cape Town's homeless people have different tales to tell on how they landed underneath the arches, writes Staff Reporter
MXOLISI MGXASHE

THEY wryly call it "Bridge Hotel". Some of the homeless have been sheltering under the unfinished Table Bay Boulevard flyover on the Foreshore for up to 16 years. It is the only home they know.

Some spent part of their juvenile years in industrial schools that were meant to rehabilitate them and bring them back to the "fold". But they opted to become permanent residents of what Andrew Rossouw — one of the "bergies" — calls the "Bridge Hotel on the third floor."

Heaps of sorrows are unveiled in the stories they have to tell, as in Jaana Williams's case — she has spent more than 16 years under the bridge.

"When I arrived here I was only 15 years old and I had spent about two years already at Faure Industrial School in Stellenbosch. I had worked for a Sergeant Steenkamp washing his family's clothes and even cooking, until I landed here.

"I became a sex worker earning about $20 from sailors which I changed in the bank and got about R14 (in those days the rand was worth more than the dollar).

"Life was much cheaper then and with that amount I almost bought everything I needed — clothes, food and wine. Things have changed now and are very hard for us. There's no hope for anything better," said Jaana.

Mary Peterson came from Port Elizabeth 16 years ago. "I wanted to see Cape Town. I was told it was a beautiful city. But now I see very little of that beauty under this bridge."

She used to work for a Portuguese businessman, drying fish, until she contracted tuberculosis five years ago. She lost her house because she could not afford to pay rent and she decided to join the others under the bridge.

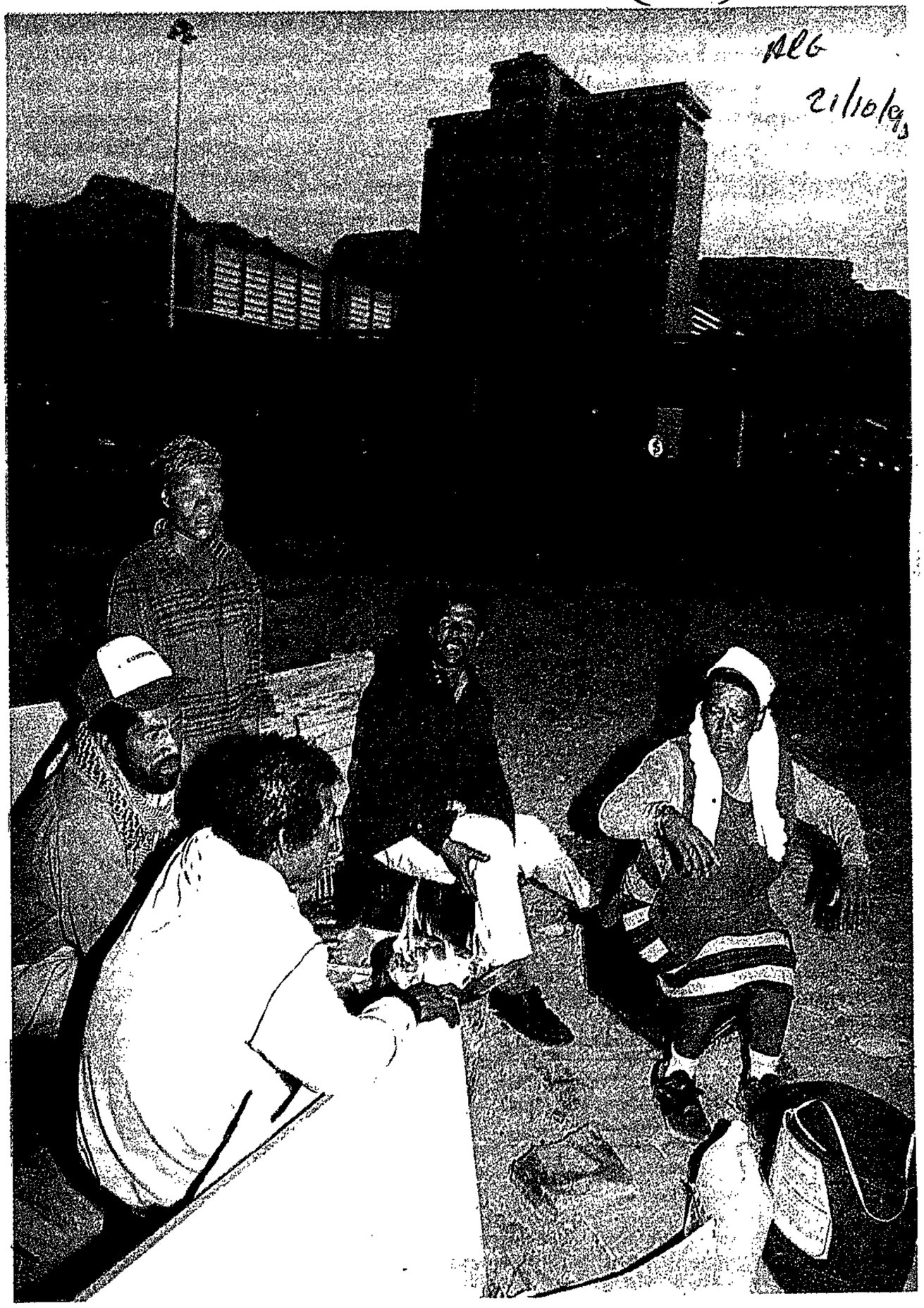
Mary, at least, has a boyfriend who cares for her and is gainfully employed as a fisherman.

But she does not think she can continue living in misery and has now decided to go back to PE in December to be with her family.

Elaine Naude, 46, is the mother of four children now aged 21, 18, 14 and 12. Her fisherman boyfriend drowned when his boat sank.

She used to sell wine for 25c as her main means of survival, and doing "other odds and ends on the side". Although homeless, Mary was able to further her schooling in night schools until, she says, she completed Std 10.

But now she is unemployable, homeless and destitute and has to collect old cardboard boxes and other trash to sell to the scrapyards.



ARG 21/11/84

□ **HOMEFIRE:** Some of the people who make their home under the Table Bay Boulevard flyover known to residents as "Bridge Hotel", enjoy the warmth of their fire on a chilly evening.

residents

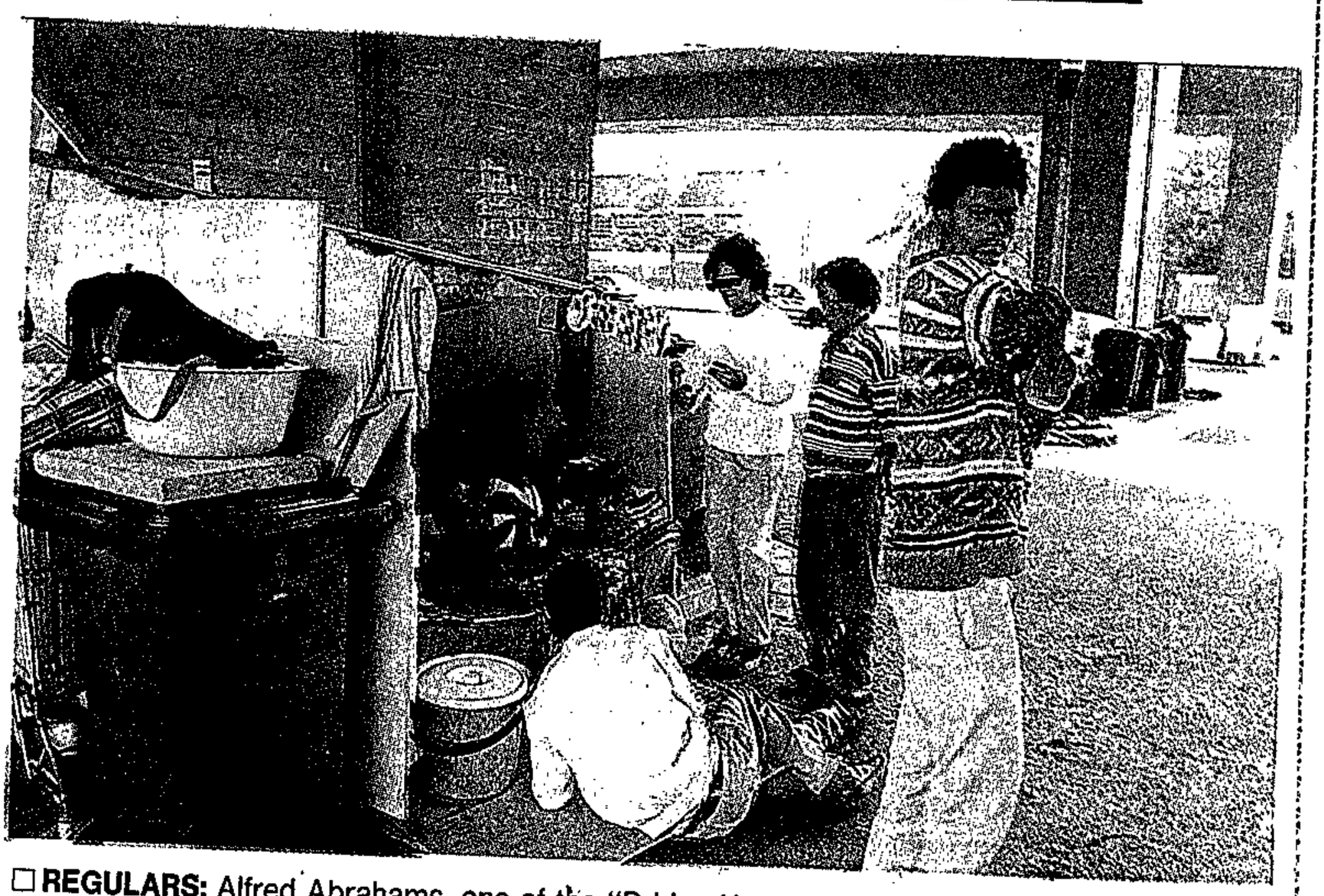
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☐ **SMALL CHANGE:** Mary Peterson counting her money after a day's sales of loose cigarettes.

Pictures: **OBED ZILWA,** Staff Photographer.



☐ **REGULARS:** Alfred Abrahams, one of the "Bridge Hotel" regulars, accepts the under-the-bridge existence as his only way of life.

Valkenberg squatters go to court in eviction fight

ST(M) 26/11/95 (307)

By AYESHA ISMAIL

SQUATTERS illegally occupying disused buildings at Valkenberg Hospital will go to the Cape Supreme Court tomorrow to oppose an urgent application brought last month by Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel to evict them.

More than 70 people are presently occupying "Ward 31" and the Oude Molen building at Valkenberg Hospital.

The head of the Provincial Administration's Department of Health, Dr Thomas James Sutcliffe, said in a court affidavit that the squatters had been asked on several occasions to leave the premises.

Arrangements had been made for the children to move to the Homestead Intake Shelter and for the adults and family groups to go to the Ark Christian Ministries Church, he said.

"Ward 31 is close to the forensic unit of Valkenberg Hospital where patients accused of commiting serious crimes are observed and treated," Dr Sutcliffe said. "In the past three years there have been grave incidents of violence involving these patients."

Dr Sutcliffe said many of the squatters were children or adolescents who were at risk of being assaulted by forensic patients who had been granted parole and who were often in the vicinity of Ward 31 and the Oude Molen building.

There had been incidents of violence between the squatters and patients, and hospital staff had also been threatened.

The group's leader, Joseph Little, said in an affidavit that their occupation was not disruptive. He said they had built up a good working relationship with the staff.

Squatters ordered out of Valkenberg

(307) ~~310~~

STAFF REPORTER

CT 28/11/95

SQUATTERS who have been occupying a large disused wing of the Valkenberg Hospital in Observatory for the past year, were yesterday ordered to leave by the Supreme Court, but were offered "alternative accommodation" at the empty Elsie's River School for Girls until May 31, 1996.

Western Cape Premier Mr Hernus Kriel recently brought the application to have the squatters evicted from Ward 31 and the Oude Molen Building on Valkenberg's premises, where they have been living illegally since December last year.

Violence

The head of the Provincial Administration's Department of Health, Dr Thomas Sutcliffe, said in an affidavit the squatters had been asked to leave on several occasions, and "grave" incidents of violence between squatters, patients and hospital staff had been reported.

He also said the squatters were in danger on the hospital premises, as Ward 31 is close to the hospital's forensic unit, where patients accused of committing serious crimes are observed and treated.

Valkenberg squatters told to leave

ARG 28/11/95

307

Supreme Court Reporter

A FINAL eviction order has been granted in the Supreme Court against more than 100 squatters who have been illegally occupying buildings at Valkenberg mental hospital in Observatory since December.

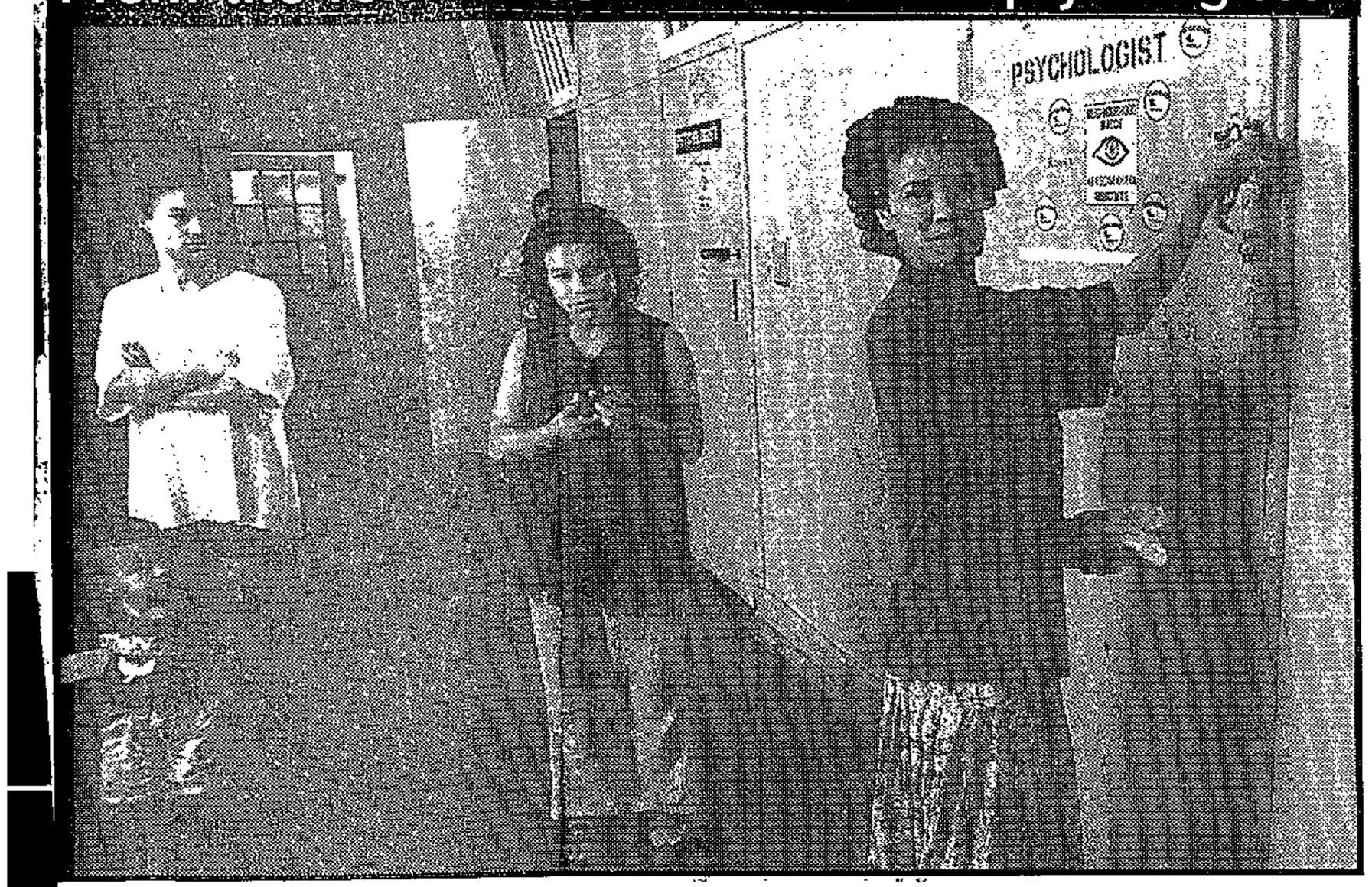
Western Cape premier Hernus Kriel brought the application for an eviction order.

The squatters have been ordered to move by 2 pm on Friday. Alternative temporary accommodation has been arranged in an empty Elsies River school until May 31 next year.

Showdown looms with squatters

(307) ARG 29/11/95

From the relative comfort of an empty wing . . .



HOMELESS: Bernadette Nagel and her son Megan, 3, unlock their home after visiting friends. Pictures: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

. . . to what's described as a 'vandalised' school



RUINED: Part of the vandalised building in Elsies River that the Department of Health and Social Services has identified as an alternative site for the Valkenberg squatters.

Alternative home rejected

Staff Reporter

A SHOWDOWN is looming between the Western Cape's Department of Health and Social Services and the more than 150 squatters living in the Oude Molen and Ward 31 buildings at Valkenberg Hospital, Observatory.

The department has obtained a Supreme Court order to evict the people from the premises on Friday while the squatters, who have been living there for almost a year, have vowed to resist the move.

Amy Thornton, adviser to Health and Social Services Minister Ebrahim Rasool, said the minister was delighted that temporary alternative accommodation had been found for the squatters and that the mental health facility would be vacated by Friday afternoon.

The department will provide transport to take the squatters' belongings to the alternative site at the former Elsies River School for Girls.

But a spokeswoman for the squatters, Priscilla Jackson, said they had heard the school had been badly vandalised and had no water, electricity, windows or doors.

"The building is in a poor state and we are not prepared to move there."

She said the more than 75 children in their group all attended school in Garden Village, next to the institution, and many of the men worked in the area.

Ms Thornton said the squatters had been told since moving into the hospital premises illegally that they would have to leave, as they could not continue living in a mental-health care facility.

"However much we feel for the homeless, we cannot allow a hospital venue to be used for accommodation," she said.

"We are doing our best to resolve this situation amicably and have sent public works officials to inspect the school building with the view of installing basic necessities like toilets and electricity.

"But we will definitely enforce the court order if the people refuse to leave the buildings as they have a legal obligation to vacate the place.

"If they find the alternative accommodation not to their liking they should view it as a challenge and make the most of it, as they are getting preferential treatment anyway.

"There are thousands of families in the province who are squatting all over and who are not being given accommodation."

ORDER TO LEAVE VALKENBERG 'WILL BRING HARDSHIP'

Squatters 'face street life'

CT 29/11/95 (307)

EVICTED OCCUPANTS of a disused Valkenberg Hospital wing say living there has helped them regain dignity. **LINDIZ VAN ZILLA** reports.

EVICTION from the disused wing of the Valkenberg Hospital in Observatory would mean a return to the streets for 72 families who, during their illegal occupation, have found jobs, put their children in schools and established a stable home life.

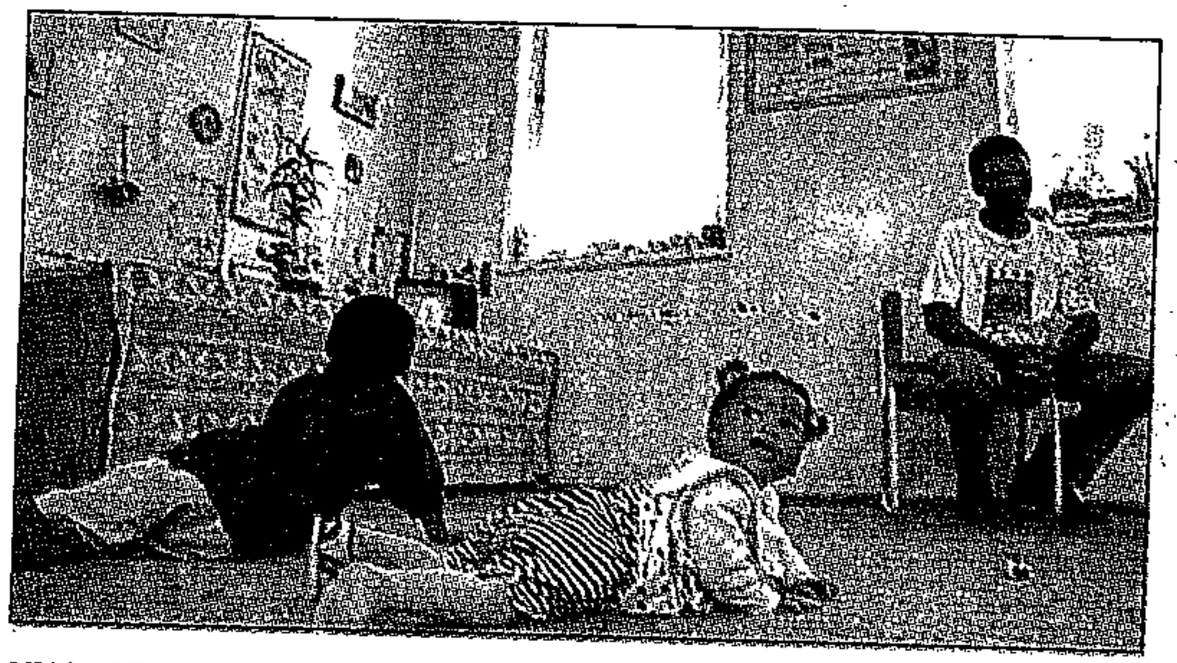
In terms of an eviction order issued by the Supreme Court on Monday, they have to leave the building by 2pm on Friday.

They have appealed to the authorities to allow them to stay.

Mr Albert Lodewyk, spokesman for the occupants, said yesterday: "Previously, many of the people slept under bushes."

He said he had been married for 13 years and for 10 of these had been on a council waiting list for a house.

"I wandered around for eight years and I have finally found a home," he said. "In the year that we have been here, many of the men have secured jobs on a nearby construction site, while some of the women are working as chars in the surrounding suburbs."



UNCERTAIN FUTURE: Watched by a resident, Albertino Lodewyk (left), and Rene Swanepoel play happily, oblivious to the eviction order hanging over their parents' heads. ***PICTURE : NIC BOTHMA***

The occupants disapproved of a proposal by the Western Cape Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr Ebrahim Rasool, that they stay for six months in an abandoned school at Elsie's River.

At the end of this period, they would find themselves back on the streets, they said.

One of the occupants said the Elsie's River school did not have water and the doors and windows were broken.

They were also concerned that the eviction notice had come in the middle of their children's examinations.

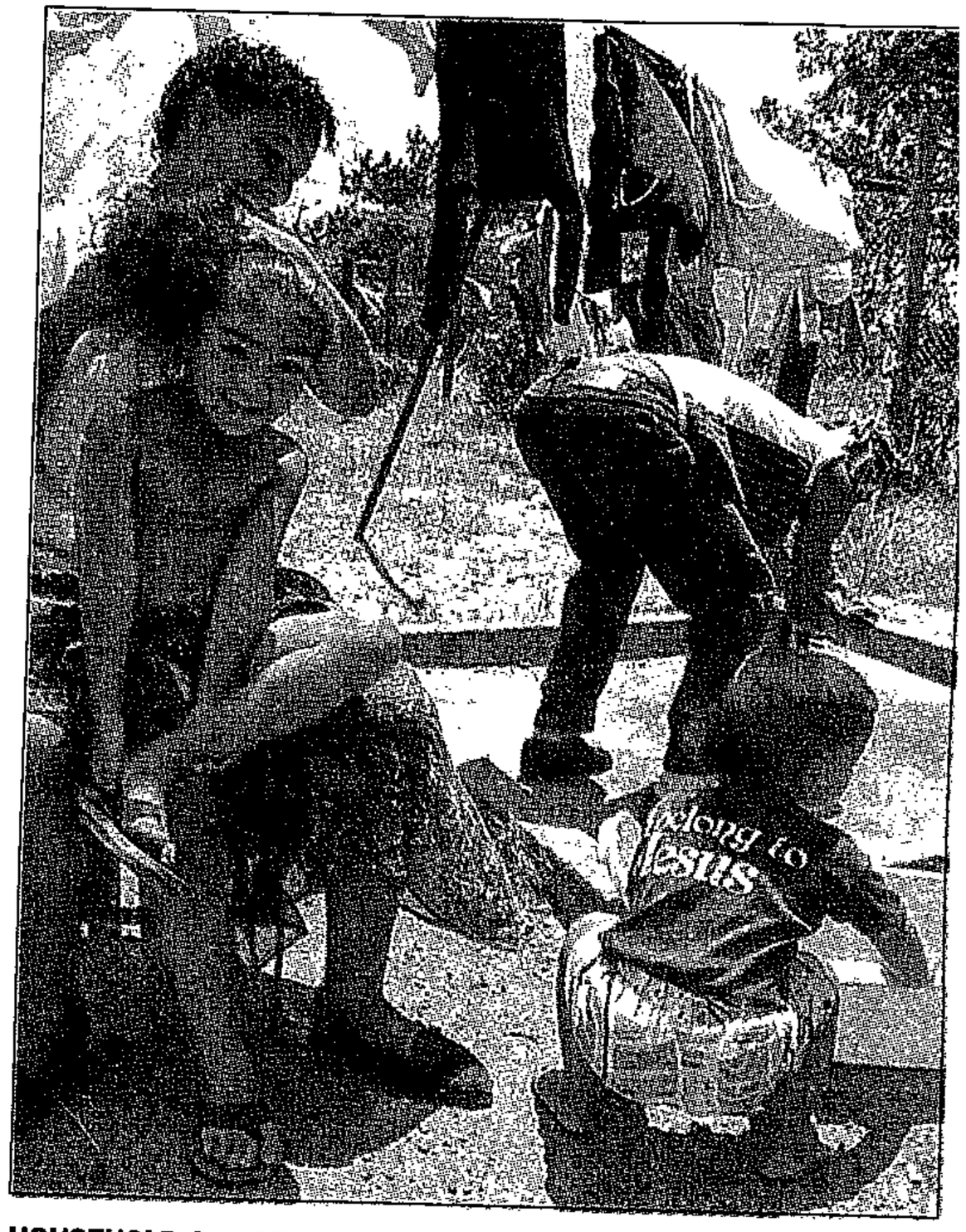
Many said that if they were allowed to stay, they would be willing to pay for water and electricity. Staying at Valkenberg had enabled them to regain some dignity and self-respect.

Mr Lodewyk does not regard himself as a squatter, but says he will become one if he is moved to Elsie's River.

"Before, life on the streets was tough and we had nothing."

His young son was born on the streets and had grown up like a barbarian, Mr Lodewyk said. "Every second word that came out of his mouth was a swear word — that is what the streets do."

Mr Kassief Jackson, who has been living in the Valkenberg building for about eight months, said: "My baby son was born in Observatory cemetery, now at least he has a home."



HOUSEHOLD CHORES : Mrs Jennifer Botha, one of the illegal occupants, goes about her daily routine as her children Vanessa, four, and Dylan, two, play. ***PICTURE : NIC BOTHMA***